ACCESS LEGAL RESEARCH INC.
• CRIMINAL PARDONS/U.S WAIVER
• NO FAULT DIVORCE
• SMALL CLAIMS COURT UP TO $25,000
• SEPARATION AGREEMENTS
• LAND TRANSFERS
OPEN SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT
CALL 228-2469

The world's largest global newspaper
metro®
CALGARY • DECEMBER 18-20, 2009 metronews.ca

BRIDAL FANTASY™
TELUS CONVENTION CENTRE
JAN 17 SUN
WIN over $100,000 IN PRIZES & GIFTS

Ex-Calgarian on upcoming season of The Bachelor

TV If she plays her cards right, former Calgarian Tiana may soon be on the wings of love — and on the arm of commercial pilot Jake Pavelka — as the newest winner of The Bachelor.

Season 14 of the reality TV show begins on Jan. 4, and two of the 25 women vying for Pavelka's heart hail from the Great White North.

Tiana

Thirty-one-year-old Tiana, a Vancouver medical technician, will be competing against Jessie, 25, a cosmetic sales manager from Oakville, Ont., both of whom are following in the footsteps of Season 13 contestant Jillian Harris — another Vancouverite.

METRO CANADA

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Canada pg 10

Harper hits Copenhagen

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Flames

Kings toppled

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Los Angeles Kings' Justin Williams battles with the Calgary Flames' Jarome Iginla during first-period NHL hockey action in Calgary on Thursday. The Flames beat the Kings 2-1. Story, page 32.

Students allege sexual harassment at school

Concerns raised as teen says boy was suspended only 3 days

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Concerns over the handling of alleged sexual harassment at a city high school has led an alleged victim, other students and parents to question the school's policies.

A Grade 11 Bishop Grandin student alleges she was inappropriately touched by a male student at a school drama production last month, and says the student was only suspended for three days.

It's alleged an obscene gesture was made by the same male student to another person three weeks later.

None of the students can be named for privacy reasons, but both alleged victims are upset with the consequences the boy faced.

"I don't think the school did a good job of handling the situation. When he came back to school, I felt unsafe about being in the same building as him," one alleged victim said. "A three-day suspension for sexual harassment is simply not enough."

Calgary Catholic School Board spokesperson Janet Corsten said she cannot speak about the specific incident for privacy reasons, but said, "A student or parent has the right to contact police directly if they feel their rights had been violated. This is in addition to our district protocol surrounding involvement of police in certain situations."

A Calgary police spokesperson said students who are concerned about incidents should contact their school resource officer or call the police.

The girl said the school didn't call the police, and neither did she.

"They never asked me if I wanted to. School is supposed to be a safe place."

A concerned parent close to the situation said the alleged incidents shouldn't have happened in the first place.

Carmen, who withheld her last name, said what the boy is accused of doing is a crime.

"I think the police should have been called in," she said. "I think it sends the wrong message."

More than 200 students have joined a Facebook group called BGHS Students for the Increased Severity of Punishments for Sexual Assault.

Cabinet pool now for bragging rights only

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

SHUFFLE What started out as political fun for a few extra bucks has ended as political fun for bragging rights.

An online pool where participants could make their selections for the rumoured Alberta government cabinet shuffle had its raffle licence suspended because it did not meet requirements for a paid contest, according to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.

Sean Libin, who put together the pool for others to become more engaged in politics, said the site has since been switched to a free pool.

"This may turn out to be a better opportunity because it will allow more people to participate without any cost. It'll be more fun for more political observers, which is what it was intended to be," said Libin, who noted that in the end, he was more than happy to comply with the AGLC request.

"It'll just be for bragging rights instead of cash."

AGLC spokesperson Christine Wronko said the original application was reviewed, and it was determined it did not meet the organization's charitable-giving policy. She added that Libin voluntarily surrendered the licence.

"It's not that the AGLC went in and bullied him and shut him down," said Wronko.

To enter, visit cabinetshufflepool.com

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca

LASIK MD VISION
Have LASIK Now. Pay in 2011!
LASER VISION CORRECTION
Starting at $490 TAX /eye*
$0 DOWN $0 PAYMENTS 0% INTEREST
UNTIL JANUARY 2011†
Consumers' Choice Award 2008 & 2009 for Business Excellence
FREE Consultation: 403-444-4444 • www.lasikmd.com • CALGARY: 734, 7th Avenue SW, Suite 900
* Prices are subject to change without prior notice. Prices vary based on prescription strength. Applicable to surgery on both eyes only. † Subject to Desjardins Card Services credit approval. Patients must call to schedule their FREE consultation on or before January 18, 2010. Surgery must be completed on or before February 28, 2010. Applicable to Advanced Custom Wavefront treatment only.
Dr. Richard Leger MD, FRCSC 40 000 procedures

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

DECEMBER 7TH - 19TH

EVERY DAY A CMP CUSTOMER WILL WIN A

Sobeys INC. GROCERY DASH

HOW MUCH CAN YOU GRAB?

PURCHASE A NEW OR USED VEHICLE TO AUTOMATICALLY BE ENTERED

OWN A GM? SAVE UP TO $1000 IN LOYALTY REBATES ON SELECT MODELS.

2009 MODEL YEAR SELL DOWN

LIMITED TIME ONLY LIMITED TIME ONLY LIMITED TIME ONLY LIMITED TIME ONLY

Stock No.	Year	Make	Model	Color	MSRP	Selling Price	Savings off MSRP	% Saving
C91166	2009	CHEVROLET	COBALT	BLACK	$16,650	$12,701	$3,949	24%
C90793	2009	CHEVROLET	COBALT	SPORT RED	$22,080	$16,411	$5,669	26%
C90868	2009	CHEVROLET	COBALT	BLACK	$24,145	$17,240	$6,905	29%
C91104	2009	CHEVROLET	COBALT	IMPERIAL BLUE	$22,380	$16,920	$5,460	24%
C91185	2009	CHEVROLET	COBALT	IMPERIAL BLUE	$20,905	$15,864	$5,041	24%
C91161	2009	CHEVROLET	COBALT	SILVER	$23,760	$17,064	$6,696	28%
C90810	2009	CHEVROLET	HHR	BLACK	$23,180	$18,165	$5,015	22%
C91143	2009	CHEVROLET	AVEO	VICTORY RED	$15,095	$11,973	$3,122	21%
C90270	2009	CHEVROLET	AVEO	VICTORY RED	$20,665	$14,705	$5,960	29%
C90806	2009	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	DARK GREY	$26,095	$22,043	$4,052	16%
C90822	2009	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	RED JEWEL	$30,545	$24,970	$5,575	18%
P91102	2009	PONTIAC	G5	VICTORY RED	$17,145	$11,952	$5,193	30%
P91147	2009	PONTIAC	G5	DARK SLATE	$17,145	$11,952	$5,193	30%
P91101	2009	PONTIAC	G5	QUICKSILVER	$22,600	$15,932	$6,668	30%
P90729	2009	PONTIAC	G5	VICTORY RED	$22,100	$15,501	$6,599	30%
P91144	2009	PONTIAC	G5	SUMMIT WHITE	$20,195	$13,862	$6,333	31%
P91145	2009	PONTIAC	G5	BLACK	$23,150	$16,405	$6,745	29%
P90894	2009	PONTIAC	SOLSTICE	BLACK	$41,710	$33,034	$8,676	21%
P91096	2009	PONTIAC	VIBE	CARBON GRAY	$24,315	$19,767	$4,548	19%
P91121	2009	PONTIAC	WAVE	SILVER	$16,400	$12,206	$4,194	26%
P91133	2009	PONTIAC	WAVE	FLAME RED	$18,580	$13,104	$5,476	29%
P90323	2009	PONTIAC	WAVE	CARBON BLACK	$21,680	$15,482	$6,198	29%
P91139	2009	PONTIAC	MONTANA	COCOA	$30,425	$22,038	$8,387	28%
P91153	2009	PONTIAC	G6	CARBON BLACK	$30,015	$20,838	$9,177	31%
C91039	2009	CADILLAC	ESCALADE	WHITE DIAMOND	$88,675	$72,862	$15,813	18%
C90975	2009	CHEVROLET	1500 PICKUP 4X4	BLUE GRANITE	$43,215	$33,187	$10,028	23%
C91055	2009	CHEVROLET	2500 PICKUP 4X4	BLACK GRANITE	$51,150	$39,262	$11,888	23%
C90439	2009	CHEVROLET	3500 PICKUP 4X4	SUMMIT WHITE	$45,015	$32,265	$12,750	28%
P90967	2009	GMC	YUKON	STEEL GRAY	$74,315	$58,235	$16,080	22%
P90939	2009	GMC	2500 PU 4WHL	SILVER BIRCH	$47,915	$35,097	$12,818	27%
P91033	2009	GMC	2500 PU 4WHL	MIDNIGHT BLUE	$52,900	$39,768	$13,132	25%

prices do not include documentation fee of $395, air tax of $100 and tire tax of $20, GST not included, errors and omissions exempt

CA$H FOR CLUNKER$

RETIRE YOUR RIDE AND SAVE UP TO **$3,000**

MORE 2009 VEHICLES AT SELL DOWN PRICES AT CMPAUTO.COM

CMP GM
CHEVROLET PONTIAC BUICK GMC Cadillac

403-207-2464
cmpauto.com

CORNER OF 16TH AVE & 36 ST. N.E. MONDAY - THURSDAY 8AM-9PM FRIDAY 8AM-6PM SATURDAY 9AM-6PM

AMVIC LICENSED

News on the Move IN THREE EASY STEPS

1 DOWNLOAD THE **FREE** SCANLIFE APPLICATION WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE AT 2DSCAN.COM

2 USE THE SCANLIFE APPLICATION ON YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN 2D BARCODES IN METRO

3 THE CODES WILL DIRECT YOUR MOBILE BROWSER TO RELEVANT CONTENT AT M.METRONEWS.CA

Local

"I can't begin to describe how wonderful it feels to be home in Canada, without doubt the best country in the world."

Amanda Lindhout, a Sylvan Lake freelance journalist who was recently freed after 15 months in captivity in Somalia, in a letter expressing thanks to everyone involved in her release. METRO CALGARY

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

Calgary tweets

- @ClarkeEvents Wow! Was lucky to have 3 days off with perfect December weather for Calgary. Keep the chinooks coming! #yyc
- @mootinator Sittin' in #YYC. It's not exactly on the way to #YOW from #YXE but the tasty baby back ribs almost make up for it. Almost.
- @donaldm314 A few minutes ago I entered an alternate universe.... My average speed on Deerfoot, from 32nd Av NE to 130th Av SE was ~95kmh. Weird. #yyc
- @wasabi became the Mayor of City Hall in #yyc on FourSqaure! Woot! In your face Bronco.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video A University of Calgary researcher learns that prehistoric humans had a much healthier diet than previously thought at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs It's Called Football welcomes The Fix author Declan Hill to discuss the fight against match-fixing

ADVERTISE TODAY! 1 888 91 metro (63876)

Cops seek clues in murder

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

Police describe the area where a Calgary man died one year ago as lonely and desolate, with few people around.

At 3:40 a.m. Dec. 14, 2008, Tsuu T'ina Nation police, who were on a routine patrol at the time, found 22-year-old Juan Carlos Dequina murdered inside his 1997 four-door Chevy Blazer, near the intersection of 53 Street and 146 Avenue SW. After just over a year, the leads have gone cold for Calgary police. No public tips have been received since shortly after the homicide.

To assist in generating more leads, police have released the path they believe Dequina took after leaving his girlfriend's house. "We're looking for anyone who may have seen JC or his vehicle that night along the route that he would have taken to come home," said Sgt. Rick Tuza of the Calgary police.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO CALGARY; INSET: CALGARY POLICE SERVICES

A memorial has been set up near where JC Dequina (inset) was found slain in his vehicle just over one year ago. Police are asking the public for more details.

"Obviously ... he would have encountered somebody along the way and something happened which brought him here to where he was discovered."

Tuza said Dequina's clean past has made it more difficult to turn up any suspects. Dequina being an apparent innocent victim makes this kind of a case tougher on detectives, Tuza said.

"The investigators feel very strongly about this investigation. They want to find a suspect ... we want to see the family have some degree of closure," Tuza said.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at (403) 266-1234

New cellphone carrier Wind Mobile blows into town

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

The winds of wireless change are now blowing in Calgary.

Wind Mobile, which recently received the green light from the federal government to roll out wireless services across the country, will set up shop at seven locations in Calgary beginning Friday, the company announced.

And CEO Ken Campbell said that after Wednesday's Toronto launch, Calgary was the company's next choice to launch to show it's a true national carrier — and it expects to meet the three prevailing carriers, Rogers, Bell and Telus, head-on.

"We certainly expect some intense competition. We didn't get into this thinking that the incumbents sit back and take it easy. Hopefully we raise the game for all operators," said Campbell.

"We'd like to really establish a good beachhead in Calgary and expand from that to Edmonton in January."

Telus spokesperson Chris Gerritsen said the company is well-prepared for Wind's rollout.

"It appears they are mimicking some of the same options and plan features we offer Telus customers, just packaged in slightly different ways," Gerritsen said.

Wind Mobile locations

- Marlborough Mall
- 109, 1013 17th Avenue SW
- #211 Kensington Village
- Westbrook Mall

Wind/Blockbuster locations

- 7740 18th St. E
- 380 Canyon Meadows Dr. SE
- 62 Saddletowne Cir. NE

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for more Local news on your smartphone.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of this page

CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

BINDER, Judy Jean (nee Croissant)
CHEPIL, Scott William Matthew
DAOUST, Paul Ernest
DYLER, Glenn
FUNK, Henry
GRAHAM, Amelia (Amy) Cecelia (nee Selinger)
GRANT, Dorothy Jean
HAASE, Joyce Marie (nee Howlett)
HODSON, Brian William
IZZO, Pietro
KAPP, Walter John
KINDRET, Ronald Lawrence
KNIGHT, Viola (McKay)
LACHAPELLE, Ed
LUTZ, Ernest James (Jim)
MAGLIS, Roy Gordon Joseph
MAH, Wallace Wah Sun
MALLARI, Isabel Nonato (Bellie)
McNEILL, Vera Elizabeth
MOODIE, William
NAUMESCU, Mihaela Rodica (nee Bucur)
NELSON, Clyde Tom
RAFFAY, Margaret
RAHILLY, Donald Hugh
RICHARDSON, Dora Viola (nee Hendrickson)
ROTHERY, Ian M.P.
SEIB, Eva (nee Petrowicz)
THACKER, John Lawrence
WATSON, James C. (Jim)
WENGER, MD, LMCC, Heinz Horst
ZAUGG, Carolyn Elsie

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com

BRIDAL FANTASY™ JAN 17 SUN The Boutique Bridal Show TELUS CONVENTION CENTRE

WIN over $100,000 IN PRIZES & GIFTS including an incredible 7 day honeymoon to Barbados courtesy of AMA Travel

Plus enter to WIN a new Volvo C30 courtesy of Volvo of Edmonton

Also Enter to WIN a Full Wedding Planning Package valued at $5000 courtesy of Tying the Knot

TICKETS $20 Includes GST

Fashion Shows 12:30pm & 3:00pm

TICKETS AT www.bridalfantasy.com

Derks Global 1015 AMA Travel Almond Barbados WestJet vibe 98.1 Tying the knot

Pick Up Your FREE Wedding Planner & Bridal Fantasy Magazine

Crash sends pair to hospital

A two vehicle crash between a tractor trailer and a car, on southbound Deerfoot sent two people to hospital and dumped a load of lumber across the road. Deerfoot southbound was closed for most of Friday afternoon. METRO CALGARY

Woman allegedly scams six stores

CRIME A High River woman is facing 32 charges in connection with a scam in Airdrie, according to the RCMP.

Police said a suspicious female entered Tan Lines Salon in Airdrie, saying she knew the store owner and was there to pick up a cash deposit. The woman took the cash, police said, and left the store.

RCMP said six businesses were victimized for a total of $5,000.

Jane Elizabeth Moore will appear in court Dec. 18 to face these charges and charges stemming from similar incidents in Calgary and Strathmore.

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

PARKING The Calgary Stampede is dropping parking rates, including one lot at the south end of Stampede Park, to as low as $6 per day. More parking options are also being added with new hourly parking at the BMO Centre parking lot. Parking at other Stampede lots will still be $12 per day. METRO CALGARY

Cops play ball with kids

40th year of game between St. Francis and Calgary police

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Donning his old St. Francis Browns coat, police chief Rick Hanson coached the boys in blue to a 49-46 win over the junior boy's team during a friendly game of hoops Thursday.

St. Francis alumni Hanson tossed up the ceremonial tip-off ball before the game between the Calgary police and the St. Francis Browns team marking the partnership's 40th anniversary.

"I remember when I was a teenager and the police came here for a game and it really left an impression on me and I am sure it leaves an impression on them too," he said.

"I think it shows the student's that police officers are human, too," Hanson added before cheering on the teams.

Before the game both teams wouldn't commit to guessing who would win but both knew it would be a close game.

"We are going to try our best but they are looking pretty big," Grade 10 player Dominic Igbelina said before the game.

ROBIN KUNSKY/FOR METRO CALGARY

Const. Travis Juska schools some of the Browns players at the Saint Francis Invitational Basketball Tournament charity game between the Calgary police and the Saint Francis junior boy's team.

In the end, the black and blue prevailed but it was all in good fun, Const. Ken Reeb said.

"It's just an important thing to be involved in the community and with youth and especially when maybe they haven't had a lot of contact with police," he added.

Student fans brought food and money donations to the game for the "Make Change to Make a Change" program.

Alberta booming, survey says

ECONOMY Alberta business is brimming with confidence heading into 2010, a new ATB Financial survey reported Thursday.

The ATB Financial Business Sentiments Index came in at 128.6, after the fourth quarter number was 114.9. An index value of more than 100 indicates optimism and less than 100 is pessimistic.

"Without question, confidence is returning to Alberta's business community," said Todd Hirsch, ATB's Senior Economist.

Construction was the only sector to register a pessimistic response in the survey. Oil and gas jumped to a reading of 141.2.

"We're a bit surprised to see the strong rebound in the energy patch," Hirsch said. "Given very weak natural gas prices throughout the survey period, we didn't expect to see optimism return that strongly," Hirsch said.

The ATB report surveyed 410 companies in Alberta.

METRO CALGARY

BEST BUY FUTURE SHOP LONDON DRUGS Walmart Zellers koodo shop

Calgary: Deerfoot Mall, Market Mall, Marlborough Mall, Southcentre Mall, Sunridge Mall
Lethbridge: Park Place Shopping Centre
Red Deer: Bower Place
Rocky View: CrossIron Mills

(1) See store for details. Bonus gift available with new activations only. While quantities last.

SAVE UP TO $750

DURING OUR **LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!**+

SAVE $400

Serta Bamboo Thrive Queen Sleep Set

Reg. $1099.97

THRIVEQPK

$699.97

PLUS DO NOT PAY FOR 15 MONTHS*

King Sleep Set SALE PRICE $1299.97

THRIVEKPK

Spring Air Autumn Firm or Plush Queen Pocketcoil Mattress Set

Reg. $1599.97

AUTUMNPQP, AUTUMNFQP

SAVE $600

$999.97

PLUS DO NOT PAY FOR 15 MONTHS

King Sleep Set

SALE PRICE $1699.97

Reg. $2299.97 AUTUMNPKP, AUTUMNFKP

Sealy Posturepedic 38th Anniversary Special Queen Sleep Set

Reg. $1599.97

3BANNIVQP

SAVE $750

$849.97

PLUS DO NOT PAY FOR 15 MONTHS

King Sleep Set

SALE PRICE $1449.97

Reg. $2199.97 3BANNIVKP

QUEEN MATTRESS SETS

STARTING FROM ONLY

$399.97

PLUS DO NOT PAY FOR 15 MONTHS*

The BRICK mattress store

Mattress Specialists Since 1971

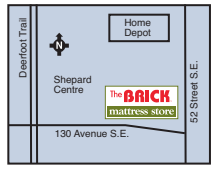
2 locations in Calgary

McKenzie Towne

5222-130th Ave SE

(Across from Home Depot)

403-221-0290



NOW OPEN

Signal Hill

5627 Signal Hill Centre

403-217-2173

Also available at all Brick locations

*O.A.C. only on your Brick Card Platinum. Minimum purchase of $250. The Administration fee ($99.95), GST (5%), provincial sales taxes (if applicable) & delivery charges are required to be paid in full at time of purchase. Balance due February 2011. Interest may accrue for the final 25 days prior to the promotion's payment due date but will be waived if the payment balance is made in full by the due date. + This offer cannot be combined with any other discount or free gift purchase, sale, or other promotion unless otherwise specified. Product may vary by location. We reserve the right to limit quantities by store and per purchase. Pictures are for representation only. Offer valid until December 31st, 2009, unless otherwise indicated. See in store for complete details.

Bow Tower on schedule and budget

The Bow Tower downtown is on schedule to be completed by Sept. 2010 and within its $1.3-billion budget, according to developers. EnCana employees will finish filling the offices by mid-2012 METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Alex Riesen, Grade 8 student from Mountain View Academy, gets a hug from Santa at the Magic of Christmas Charity.

Students feel Magic of Christmas

SunnySide

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

The Magic of Christmas cast its wintry spell after 116 students at Mountain View academy donated almost 200 gifts to the charity for those less fortunate.

Student Shae Pollock, 16, said while the school chooses to help charitable organizations yearly, they were very happy to help the Magic of Christmas charity this year to help put presents under Calgarians trees.

"We're really enjoying the Christmas spirit and everyone was really excited to help out with gifts. I think it really shows the spirit of our school," she said.

As uniformed students filed into a bus with presents, Santa and elves gave hugs and Ho, Ho, Ho's while loading the bus, one of 10 donated by Calgary Transit, spokesperson Ron Collins said.

"We think this is wonderful and just wanted to help out by giving back to the community and you can fit a lot of food and gifts into these buses," Collins said, adding the buses would drop gifts off for about 3,000 people when the job is done.

The gifts will be delivered to nursing homes, hospitals and shelters on Christmas Eve.

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Sgt. Colin Lock, left, and Cpl. Chris Godler, right, load up George Bittman, chairman of the Calgary Poppy Fund, with food donated by the RCMP.

RCMP remember vets with Christmas drive

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

SunnySide

A simple act of kindness can make a difference to a veteran and $5,000 worth of kindness means the world to them, says the president of the Poppy fund.

The RCMP Southern Alberta District Headquarters conducted its own food drive to donate to the Calgary Poppy Fund and Veteran's Food Drive and filled a van with the donations, George Bittman said.

"This is amazing, and it really means a lot to the veterans — the donations are very-much needed and very much appreciated," he said.

Bittman says every little bit helps and yesterday alone the charity was able to help one veteran receive eye treatment and paid another veteran's rent.

"He had tears in his eyes, he was so grateful. It's just so important," Bittman added.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Webb said the service didn't think twice about helping out the organization since they are so closely bonded.

"It's important to be a part of this and it's sad that there are veterans who need help but the need is there and we want to help contribute to it," Webb said, adding it's the third year the RCMP has conducted the drive.

Calgary in brief

INQUIRY A number of recommendations have stemmed from a fatality inquiry following the hanging suicide of an 83-year-old man in a Calgary psychiatry unit in 2007. Edwin Clark hanged himself with a belt in a hospital closet. Six Alberta psychiatric facility recommendations resulted from the inquiry including a change in policy removing belts from patients and making suicide prevention training mandatory for all staff.

DONATION First Calgary Savings announced an innovative contribution to the Calgary Homeless Foundation by allowing them to borrow up to $5 million from the Evergreen Line of Credit — interest free. "It is a strong example of the community mobilizing to end homelessness in the city," Tim Richter, president and CEO of the CHF said of the donation.

RULING The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear the appeal of two women who argue Alberta's cap on insurance payouts for whiplash injuries is discriminatory. The $4,000 cap was brought in by the government in 2004 to save private insurers millions of dollars on injury claims in exchange for lower premiums for many drivers. It was challenged by Peari Morrow and Brea Pederson, who were left with chronic injuries after two separate car crashes. METRO CALGARY

Friday Saturday & Sunday

3 DAY CLEARANCE

SALE!

UP TO

90% OFF+

the original price on clearance items

CLEARANCE

KING & QUEEN SLEEP SETS

UP TO

50% off original price

CLEARANCE

ACCENT CHAIRS

UP TO

50% off original price

CLEARANCE

SOFA GROUPS

UP TO

50% off original price

CLEARANCE

SELECTED APPLIANCES

BELOW COST!

CLEARANCE

SINGLE LOVESEATS

AS LOW AS

$98

CLEARANCE

BEDROOM FURNITURE

UP TO

50% off original price

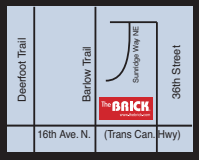
Friday, December 18th with this coupon

Save 4X the GST§

off the clearance ticket price.

The BRICK Clearance CENTRE

Find more clearance items @ brickclearance.com



Calgary Sunridge
3451 Sunridge Way NE.
403-726-6200

§An amount equal to 4x the GST will be deducted at time of purchase. +This offer cannot be combined with any other discount or free gift purchase, sale, or other promotion. See in store for complete details. We reserve the right to limit quantities by store and per purchase. Pictures are for representation only. Offer valid December 18th - 20th, 2009, unless otherwise indicated. See in store for complete details.

Financial training for community agencies
The United Way of Calgary and Area and the Certified Management Accountants of Alberta have teamed up to provide community agencies with support in financial management. METRO CALGARY

'I feel pretty stupid,' says man who hopped on train

As Jonathan Hambler clung with his bare hands to the freezing metal of a freight train that was barrelling into the unknown darkness of a frigid prairie night, it occurred to him he'd made one pretty big mistake.

Just a short time before, in the wee hours of last Friday, the 29-year-old left a bar in Wetaskiwin, Alta., to escort a drunk friend home. It was -20 C, after all, and Hambler wanted to make sure nothing bad happened. That's when he came up with the worst idea of his life.

"I just wanted to get across town a little quicker than walking," he said of his decision to hop on a slow-moving freight train to get home a couple of dozen blocks away.

"I was going to jump off ... and I thought, 'Give it a couple more seconds. It might slow down.' But it just kept going faster."

Hambler's headline-making wild ride had a relatively happy ending — just a couple of days in hospital getting treated for frostbite, along with a fine of up to $2,000 from Canadian Pacific Railway for petty trespass.

Everybody kind of thinks I'm joking about it, but it's really nothing to joke about," the soft-spoken and sombre young man said in an interview Wednesday.

"I feel pretty stupid."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RBC Royal Bank®

TORCH RELAY
RELAIS DE LA FLAMME
vancouver 2010

PRESENTING PARTNER
PARTENAIRE PRINCIPAL

This isn't the time to get just any mortgage.
It's time to get the right one.

BEST RATE OFFERS*
RBC Homeline Plan®

5 Year Variable Rate Closed[1]	2.25%
Line of Credit[2]	2.75%

Now is the time to consult an RBC® Mortgage Specialist. RBC advice can help you take advantage of current interest rates, through an RBC Homeline Plan: a flexible mortgage that's part fixed – for peace-of-mind – and part variable – so you can benefit from today's low rates. And we can recommend one of the best priced lines of credit available in the market today. To take advantage of our advice, and our rates, **talk to an RBC Mortgage Specialist today. Visit a branch or rbc.com/mortgageadvice**

CREATE
A FUTURE WITH PEACE OF MIND

Proud Presenting Partner of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

TM1

™2009, VANOC. All Rights Reserved. Personal lending products and residential mortgages are offered by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to standard lending criteria. Some conditions apply. * Rates shown are Royal Bank of Canada's best rates based on current promotions offered to the general public. Offer may be changed, withdrawn or extended at any time without notice. Not available in combination with any other rate discounts, offers or promotions. 1 Interest rate for the variable rate closed mortgage is our prime rate. The interest rate will change as our prime rate changes. APR 2.29%. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is based on a $100,000 mortgage for the term indicated and assumes certain cost of borrowing charges (for example, appraisal charges). If there are no cost of borrowing charges, APR and annual interest rate will be the same. 2. Interest rate for the line of credit is based upon Royal Bank of Canada's prime rate, plus 0.5%. Prime rate as of October 19, 2009 is 2.25% and will change as our prime rate changes and without notice. ®Registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ™1Trademark of Royal Bank of Canada.

28 new firefighters in Calgary
The Calgary Fire Department will graduate 28 new recruits at a ceremony Friday at the Multi-Agency Training Centre. METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNKEL/FOR METRO CALGARY

The Simmons mattress factory warehouse was one of 10 sites designated as a municipal historic resource in 2009.

Heritage matters in city

Calgary leads in protecting historic sites

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

At one point, Calgary's municipal history was being eliminated with each swing of a wrecking ball, in the eyes of one city alderman.

Now it leads the country in historic resources with 550, including 65 new properties added to the Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources just this year, according to information released Thursday.

"It's a stark contrast to Calgary before," said Ald. Druh Farrell, who has led the recent charge for the protection of the city's lore.

"We were losing (municipal historic sites) at a steady rate."

Farrell said a transformative moment, one she pinpoints to resurrection of the Lougheed Building at 6 Avenue and 1 Street SW — despite a fire that gutted the elevator and part of the penthouse — as a shift in municipal perspective.

"We thought it may have been lost," Farrell said, recalling vividly the smoke-stained supporters of the Lougheed, including one who lived in the penthouse at the time, who had come later that day to a committee meeting to speak in an emotion-filled session against its demolition.

Farrell claims a funding formula scratched together on a napkin by Ald. Gord Lowe helped save the historic building, and was a watershed moment for the city and it's protection of historic sites.

"That was, I think, a seminal moment for the city," Farrell said.

Ten sites over the past year, including sites likes the Simmons Factory Warehouse, the Nellie McClung House, have received historic designation by the city.

Farrell said despite some past creative rough patches, recent structures and upcoming designs body well for the city's future appeal.

"We're creating buildings that in the future we'll want to lie in front of the earth movers to protect," said Farrell.

Premier should be in Copenhagen: Swann

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

Premier Ed Stelmach's refusal to go to the Copenhagen climate conference has left the province open to verbal attacks, said the leader of the Alberta Liberal Party.

In a prepared statement, Alberta Liberal Leader David Swann said he was "appalled" by the premiers of Quebec and Ontario, "shamelessly" blaming Alberta for Canada's climate woes — but added the premier's presence could have shielded Albertans from the storm.

"Copenhagen should have been an opportunity for Canadians from coast to coast to stand together and offer solutions. Instead, we're throwing rocks at each other, and the premier isn't there to stand up for us," Swann said.

David Swann

Swann went on to say that if he were premier he would have gone to Copenhagen to "stand up for the energy sector" and also to bring climate change solutions to the table.

The premier said the province has spent thousands of hours with the federal government to ensure the province was adequately represented at the conference. Provincial representatives, including Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner are at the Copenhagen conference.

Swann believes Alberta needs to take a leadership role in ushering in climate change measures.

"We need to be global leaders not only in the energy industry, but also in the fight against climate change and in the emerging green economy," said Swann.

News in brief

RESEARCH U of C researchers believe they have unearthed evidence that humans relied on cereal grains and root staples as far back as 100,000 years ago. Dozens of stone tools recovered in a deep cave in Mozambique by Julio Mercader, Canada Research Chair in Tropical Archaeology at the U of C, showed wild sorghum – which is the primary ancestor to today's flours, breads and porridges, was a part of early human diets. METRO CALGARY

STOREWIDE SALE

ARM CANDY

Give a pop of colour this holiday – bold bags are the perfect statement for toting her essentials in style.

UP TO 30% OFF
Regular-priced handbags & wallets
Excludes Juicy Couture, Botkier, Diesel & items with 99¢ price endings.

PLUS
30% OFF
All regular-priced fashion jewellery
By GUESS, J.LO, NINE WEST, JONES NEW YORK, BIANCA NYGÅRD, LIZ CLAIBORNE, NAPIER, GARBO, CEZANNE, VARIATIONS & EXPRESSION
Includes boxed jewellery. Excludes Manufacturer's Specials.

Selection varies by store, while quantities last.

December 18th until December 24th

the Bay

Saskatchewan opts against nuclear power

Saskatchewan has stopped short of giving a green light to a nuclear power plant, but it isn't putting up a permanent red light either. Energy Minister Bill Boyd says a proposal from Ontario-based Bruce Power for a large-scale plant in Saskatchewan will not move forward. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Ex-CEO wants Nortel to pay for lawsuit

A former Nortel CEO who took millions with him when he left the company in 2001 wants Nortel to cover up to $1 billion of his costs if he loses a series of class action lawsuits filed by former employees. John Roth, left, filed a U.S. creditor claim in a U.S. bankruptcy court on Dec. 1. U.S. Nortel employees and former employees filed the lawsuits about four years ago against Nortel and those at the company who were responsible for managing the company-sponsored investment plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper in Copenhagen

U.S. offers $1-trillion plan hinging on transparency

Stephen Harper kept a low profile on his first day at the Copenhagen climate summit amid high hopes for a breakthrough over a $1-trillion American plan.

While the prime minister hobnobbed with other leaders at a royal dinner hosted by the queen of Denmark, it fell to Environment Minister Jim Prentice to deliver Canada's address to the UN climate talks Thursday.

Prentice's speech came after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton offered to help raise $100 billion a year for the next decade to help the most vulnerable nations cope with a warming planet.

That includes an unspecified American contribution which would include a mix of public and private money. But there's a couple of catches: Countries must agree to a climate deal in Copenhagen, and all must agree to "transparency" in reporting and verifying cuts to greenhouse gases.

The latter condition was clearly directed at China, which has balked at what it sees as an intrusion on its sovereignty.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrives in Copenhagen, Denmark for the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference on Thursday.

Clinton said lack of transparency is a "deal breaker" and insisted: "There shall be a transparency requirement."

"It would be hard to imagine, speaking for the United States, that there could be the level of financial commitment that I have just announced in the absence of transparency from the second-biggest emitter — and now I guess the first-biggest emitter — and now nearly, if not already, the second-biggest economy."

China's vice-foreign minister, He Yafei, called the offer a "good first step." He said China is ready for "dialogue and co-operation" on its emissions actions "that is not intrusive, that does not infringe on China's sovereignty."

Harper arrived in Copenhagen facing heavy criticism from developing countries and environmentalists who accuse Canada of failing to make concessions to help reach a deal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for more Canada news on your smartphone.

Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Dutch proposed an Afghan prison

DETAINEE Who or what killed a Dutch and British-backed proposal to build or renovate a safe prison facility for all Afghan detainees taken in southern Afghanistan?

It is one of the mysteries raised by diplomat Richard Colvin's allegations before a parliamentary committee.

The Dutch proposal first came to light after a June 2, 2006 email authored by Colvin, that remains largely censored due to the government's concerns over "national security." was first reported by the Toronto Star last month.

In a letter sent this week to the parliamentary committee, Colvin further revealed the separate detention facility was "a serious proposal that in spring 2006 was actively being pursued and promoted by two of our principal NATO allies" who remained "interested through 2007."

Conditions

- Prison conditions in Uruzgan — where Dutch forces were deploying — were crowded, dirty and disgusting. The Red Cross gave it a rating of 33 per cent, whereas it gave Sarpoza prison in Kandahar 67 per cent.

It is not clear why the proposal went nowhere, although Colvin may have been partly responsible because he also reported to Ottawa that the Red Cross rated the Sarpoza prison in Kandahar province — where the Canadians were based — as the best of a bad lot in southern Afghanistan.

Colvin's June 2006 email outlined reasons the Dutch wanted to build a separate jail in Kandahar to hold detainees captured by Dutch, Canadian and British soldiers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CARIBOU Declining caribou herds have led the Northwest Territories to ban all hunting in a large part of the North. The government says the interim ban includes aboriginals, despite their legally guaranteed right to hunt. The ban affects the winter range of the Bathurst herd, which has declined by 75 per cent since 2006. The ban is in place until the aboriginal management board for the area comes up with its own plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teens get 2 years for murder plot

COURT Two teens who plotted to corral students in a Winnipeg school auditorium and randomly open fire "until they got tired" have each been sentenced to two years in jail.

The 17-year-old male and his 18-year-old girlfriend, who cannot be identified under court order, had pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit murder.

They both apologized at a sentencing hearing in October. The young man admitted he "really screwed up," while the girl said she wanted to "apologize to the community and all that I have affected with this act of mine."

At the hearing, Crown and defence lawyers recommended the teens be sentenced to two years in jail, followed by three years on supervised probation. Judge Brian Corrin wasn't convinced, reserved his decision and asked the Crown to consider the matter further.

In the end, he accepted the joint recommendation.

The teens agreed to be sentenced as adults although lawyers asked that they serve their jail terms in a youth facility.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia man charged after allegedly fighting cop

HALIFAX A Lower Sackville, N.S., man faces several charges after a Halifax regional police officer ended up in a brawl with a prisoner he was transporting.

James David Brown, 30, will appear in court once he is released from hospital.

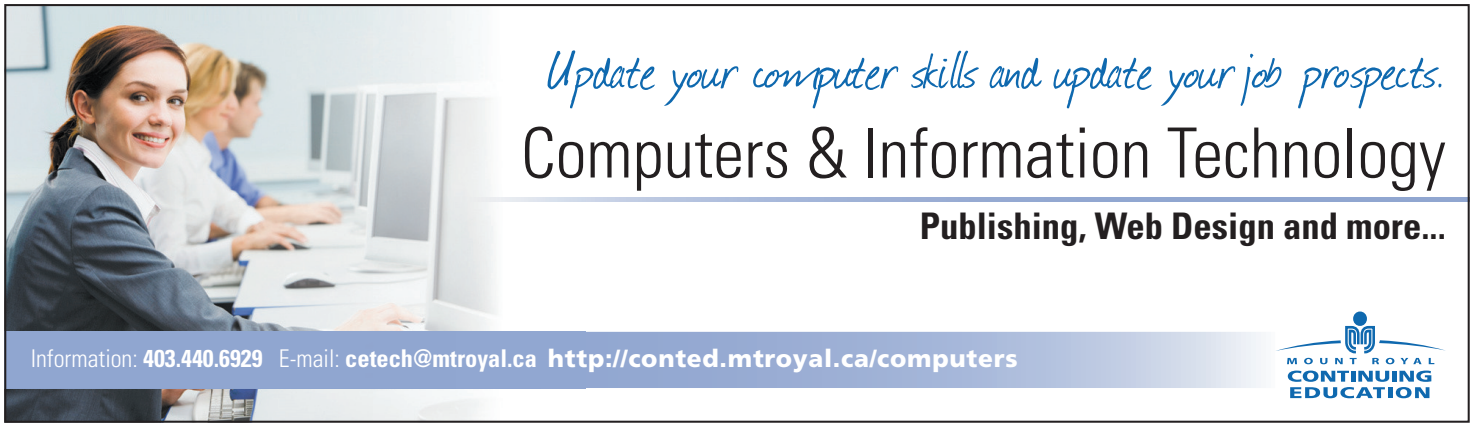
Police say the officer was hit with a flashlight after stopping to check on the prisoner in the back of his car.

A struggle ensued as both men tumbled out onto the road where two people stopped to help the officer gain control.

Both the officer and prisoner were taken to hospital for treatment of injuries.

Brown is charged with assault with a weapon, assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, escape custody, breach of probation and breach of recognizance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



BURBERRY
FRAGRANCES

Give the luxury of Burberry

YOUR BURBERRY GIFT
Receive this Burberry teddy bear as your gift with any men's or women's Burberry fragrance purchase.
While supplies last. One per customer, please.

BURBERRY
LONDON WOMEN
Limited Edition, Eau de Parfum 100 mL, $106

BURBERRY
LONDON MEN
Limited Edition, Eau de Toilette 100 mL, $88

ONLY AT THE BAY

BURBERRY
THE BEAT WOMEN SET
Eau de Parfum Spray, 75 mL, Body Lotion, 100 mL Shower Gel, 100 mL, $105
(Value $157)

BURBERRY
WOMEN MINIATURES SET
Set includes a 4.5 mL miniature of The Beat Women, Brit Women, London Women, Classic Women and Weekend Women. $44

ONLY AT THE BAY

$120 in beauty savings

With any $50 **COSMETICS** or **FRAGRANCE** purchase (before taxes).

That's
$10 off* each month for a whole year!

Our gift to you from the Bay
Only 7 days left! On now until Thursday, December 24th

*Valid on a minimum $50 purchase (before taxes) in Cosmetics or Fragrances.

the Bay

A Canadian Christmas

CANADA'S BEST SELECTION OF WATCHES AT THE BAY

AX4050, $170

ICE ICE BABY!
ARMANI EXCHANGE

www.thebay.com

the Bay

Judge rules against ban on gang colours

A judge has ruled a law banning the wearing of gang colours in Saskatchewan bars violates a person's right to freedom of expression. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pot use worse than thought, study says

The effects of daily cannabis use on teenage brains is worse than originally thought and the long-term effects appear to be irreversible, new research from McGill University suggests.

The study, by Dr. Gabriella Gobbi, a psychiatric researcher from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, suggests that daily cannabis consumption can lead to depression and anxiety.

The new study, published in Neurobiology of Disease, suggests that the reputed "soft" drug has an impact on serotonin and norepinephrine, compounds which help control mood and anxiety.

Her research team observed that 18 rats exposed to cannabis had decreased levels of serotonin, which affects mood; and higher levels of norepinephrine, which makes one more susceptible long-term to stress.

"These permanent changes in the brain are also linked to certain mental illnesses, like schizophrenia," Gobbi said in an interview Thursday. "And we showed that even if we stopped the cannabis use at the end of adolescence, the changes were still detectable in adulthood."

While past epidemiological studies have shown how cannabis consumption can affect behaviour in some teenagers, Gobbi said the new study demonstrates that the effects are more devastating in teens compared to adults.

"Our study is one of the first to focus on the neurobiological mechanisms at the root of this influence of cannabis on depression and anxiety in adolescents," she said. Gobbi says the study reveals that because serotonin and norepinephrine systems are still in development during adolescence, cannabis interfere with their development.

"We don't know if some subjects would be more at-risk than others, including adults," said the McGill professor.

Gobbi said she will be observing a group of young human marijuana smokers to continue her research.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto **Robin Hood at Christmas time**

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A rehearsal shot of some of the stars in action during this year's Christmas pantomine, Robin Hood: The Environmental Family Musical, put on by Ross Petty in Toronto.

Stelmach says oilsands help Canada's economy

GREEN Ganging up on Alberta's polluting oilsands is becoming a national sport and it's on full display for the world in Copenhagen.

But what would the country look like if the cash flow pumped from the Western oil patch was suddenly turned off?

With climate change now morphing into a national-unity issue, angry defenders of Western oil argue that the provinces doing most of the environmental finger-pointing — namely, Ontario and Quebec — can only afford their own social programs and tax rates thanks to the gooey Alberta cash cow they love to disparage.

Alberta's premier Ed Stelmach says his province's oil-rich economy provides the rest of the country with about $21 billion — which, by way of comparison, is more than all of Canada's $18-billion defence budget, and about half of what Ontario spends on health care.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TORCH RUN The Olympic torch relay through Toronto was thrown off schedule on Thursday evening when about 100 anti-Olympic protesters blocked the street. Officials who were taking the torch by convoy to Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto were forced to change the route to get past the protest.

AVIATION The European Union on Thursday signed an aviation deal with Canada that will allow airlines to operate flights from any European city to Canada and will phase out restrictions on foreign ownership of carriers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 ONLY!

FREE $20 SHOPPERS DRUG MART GIFT CARD

WHEN YOU SPEND $100 OR MORE ON ALMOST ANYTHING IN-STORE*

SPEND IT ON YOURSELF OR GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ON YOUR HOLIDAY LIST!

PLUS, 4 DAYS OF SAVINGS! SATURDAY DECEMBER 19 TO TUESDAY DECEMBER 22†

SONY DSC-W180 10.1 MEGA PIXEL 3X OPTICAL ZOOM DIGITAL CAMERA

SONY 4GB MEMORY STICK PRO DUO - 29.99

99.99 each

SONY iPOD DOCKING STATION or **LLOYD'S** 7" PORTABLE DVD PLAYER + Environmental Handling or Disposal Fee where applicable

79.99 each

DECORA PHOTO FRAMES Selected Types

20% off*

LIFE BRAND ASSORTED WINE GUMS or LICORICE ALLSORTS 800g

6.99 each

LINDT BOXED CHOCOLATES 168g Selected Types

7.99 each

FERRERO ROCHER CHOCOLATE BOX (200g) or **LINDOR** CHOCOLATE BAG (150g) Selected Types

4.99 each

FRAGRANCE SAMPLER and CERTIFICATE FOR HIM or HER Includes a Fragrance Gift Certificate valued at up to $85 for a bottle of your favourite scent - plus 10 FREE samples to help you choose! While Quantities Last. No Rainchecks

$70 set

ESCAPE, ETERNITY MOMENT, **CONTRADICTION** EAU DE PARFUM (50mL), **MACKIE, SWISS ARMY** CLASSIC (100mL), **CONTRADICTION** (50mL) EAU DE TOILETTE, **PERRY ELLIS** 360 LADIES, MEN (3 Pc) or **OSCAR** (2 Pc) SET While Quantities Last. No Rainchecks

19.99 each

QUO MASTER BRUSH SET

39.99 set

VICHY GIFT SET Selected Types While Quantities Last. No Rainchecks.

starting at $34 set

THE COLOR WORKSHOP COLOUR TRAVELLER KIT

39.99 kit

QUO I SHIMMER I SHINE

39.99 each

A SEASON OF SAVINGS

COCA-COLA, PEPSI (12 x 355mL) BEVERAGES, **AQUAFINA** (12 x 500mL) or **DASANI** (12 x 355mL) WATER Selected Types Limit 4 + Deposit & Enviro Levy Where Applicable

2/7.99 or 5.49 case

LIFE BRAND 2-PLY (24 Roll) or DOUBLE (12 Roll) BATHROOM TISSUE Limit 4 After Limit 7.49

4.99 each

BOUNCE FABRIC SOFTENER SHEETS (70's) or **TIDE** LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT Selected Types & Sizes

LIFE BRAND ULTRA CONCENTRATE FABRIC SOFTENER 1.2L Selected Types - 3.99

5.99 each

BELLE COLOR HAIR COLOUR or ROOT TOUCH-UP Selected Types

4.99 kit

25% off*

ALL QUO COSMETIC BRUSHES

40% off*

QUO COSMETIC PRODUCTS Selected Types

*Offer valid on the purchase total of eligible products after discounts and redemptions and before taxes using a valid Shoppers Optimum Card®. Excludes prescription purchases, products with codeine, non-pointable items, tobacco products (where applicable), stamps, passport photos, lottery tickets, event tickets, transit tickets and passes, electronic gift cards, Life Experiences® packages and prepaid phone cards. We reserve the right to substitute an item of equivalent value. Not to be used in conjunction with any other Shoppers Drug Mart promotion or offer. While quantities last. Offer valid Saturday, December 19 to Monday, December 21, 2009 only. Gift card is valid until January 31, 2010. See cashier for details. ® 911979 Alberta Ltd.

†Prices in effect from Saturday, December 19 to Tuesday, December 22, 2009. While quantities last. No rainchecks. ††Where permitted.

working late? shop even later.

From holiday cards and last minute gifts to wrapping paper and ribbon, most of our stores are open late with everything you need to finish your list.

Most Stores **OPEN** Late & Christmas Day††

Visit shoppersdrugmart.ca to find a store nearest you.

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Magna aims to be a heavyweight in ultra-light auto parts

Magna International and the federal government are set to announce the creation of a new centre to help develop ultra-light materials for new vehicles Friday in Woodbridge, Ont. The number of jobs to be created at the new operation is not known. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Come clean on pensions, Ottawa told

Thee federal government is not showing the true cost of the pensions it gives employees, a think tank says.

And it should come clean before it starts reforming the retirement-income system, the C.D. Howe Institute says.

It says the federal debt would have climbed an additional $58 billion over the past 10 years if Ottawa had valuated the pensions it offers public servants.

In the last year alone, if Ottawa had done its math right, pension obligations would have more than doubled the size of the $6-billion federal deficit.

"I wouldn't go as far as saying they're cooking the books," said Alexandre Laurin, senior policy analyst at the think tank.

"But the cost is greater than what the government is actually saying," he said.

But the union representing many public-service employees says Ottawa is right to take the long view.

Using current market prices would cause too much volatility in valuing the pension plans, said Toby Sanger, economist for the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

He said the focus on ministers' talks should be how to improve private-sector pensions so they aren't as vulnerable as the financial crisis has shown them to be.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pension pow wow

- Finance ministers from all provinces and Ottawa are meeting in Whitehorse to negotiate how best to put retirement income for all Canadians on a steady footing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The card: Brison and his partner, Maxime St. Pierre, standing in a field with their dog Simba.

'Bigots' criticize gay MP's card

GREETINGS It has all the hallmarks of a politician's glossy Christmas card.

Pastoral setting? Check.

Doe-eyed golden retriever? Check.

Handsome couple dressed in smart casual? Check.

Same-sex couple?

That was too much for "a handful of bigots" who objected to Scott Brison's greeting card depicting him and spouse Maxime St. Pierre, according to the Nova Scotia Liberal MP.

"The overwhelming response has been very positive," Brison said from Windsor, N.S.

"There's always a very, very tiny minority of bigots.

"It's their problem, it's not my problem."

At least one news website had to shut down its comments section because of "hateful and homophobic remarks."

But Matt Mills, editorial director of the gay news group Pink Triangle Press, said it's a mistake to block homophobes.

"Gay and lesbian people do know that homophobia exists and is expressed all the time," he said.

"Our approach is that shutting down comments when there are homophobic remarks that come out really just drives that homophobia underground."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mittens warm Games coffers

OLYMPICS Nine months ago, there was nothing good about the colour red for the organizers of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The economic collapse deepened and revenue stopped flowing in to match rising expenses.

Organizers were also in tense negotiations with governments and the International Olympic Committee over who was going to pay more for what.

The result was a deal between organizers and the IOC for a $22-million payment.

But with just under two months until the Olympics, red slowly seems to be returning as a symbol of pride for the 2010 Winter Games.

One million pairs of red Vancouver 2010 mittens have now been sold, allowing organizers to give the Own The Podium program $44 million.

Own The Podium is a five-year, $117-million program aimed at ensuring Canadians have an unprecedented medal haul in February.

The runaway success of sales speaks to the fact Canadians are finally engaging in the Games en masse, said Dave Cobb, deputy chief executive officer of the organizing committee known as VANOC.

"Everywhere we go people can't get enough of these things (mittens)," said Cobb.

General merchandise sales are also on fire.

Now organizers are looking at selling CDs featuring music heard in the opening and closing ceremonies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"People can't get enough of these things ."
Dave Cobb

News in brief

ATROCITIES Canada is announcing diplomatic sanctions against Guinea over September's brutal crackdown in the West African country, sources say. The new tough line will also include a call to the United Nations to speed an investigation into the Sept. 28 rape and killing of at least 150 opposition supporters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hello,
Canada-wide calling.
Goodbye,
Canada-wide gouging.

BlackBerry® Bold™ 9700 Smartphone

UNLIMITED CANADA-WIDE CALLING

Get our Always Shout Plan and call anywhere in Canada from any WIND Home Zone and pay no long distance.

ALWAYS SHOUT

$45/month

- Unlimited Canada-wide calling from any WIND Home Zone
- Unlimited texts (CA/US)
- Call Control (caller ID, missed call alerts, call forward, call conferencing, call waiting, call hold)
- Voicemail

Full QWERTY keyboard, new touchpad input, 3.2MP camera, Wi-Fi™, GPS, Bluetooth®, microSD™ slot for up to 32 GB of memory

WINDmobile.ca

WIND™
The Power of Conversation™

BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.

B.C. ombudsperson wants more protection for seniors

B.C. Ombudsperson Kim Carter says the government needs to do more when it comes to protecting seniors in residential care. Carter says she's looking for results from the government as opposed to promises. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Divorce law needs funds, experts say

COURTS Family law changes aimed at making divorce faster and less combative in Ontario are a good first step, but without more funding it's not clear how effective they will be, experts say.

A push to mediation and a streamlining of the court process could keep parents away from bitter courtroom battles , said Philip Epstein, a veteran family lawyer in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fear rocks Quebec construction sites

Should there be a public inquiry into Quebec's construction industry?

Quebec has been bombarded by allegations of scams, involving construction companies, politicians, and the Italian Mafia, to suck down taxpayer cash.

With Ottawa now showering billions on the biggest infrastructure spending spree in Canadian history, there's potential the scandal might go federal in 2010.

Some whistleblowers have come forward to say some Quebec construction companies have formed a cartel to set shockingly high prices for infrastructure projects.

Companies are supposedly threatened if they refuse to play along and, according to one groundbreaking investigative report, some of the profits are shared with the Mob and political parties.

"I'd taken some serious hits – cars getting rammed, trucks burning."
Paul Sauve, boss of a Montreal masonry company

But others in the industry counter that the problem is being overblown — that it is the handiwork of a small-but-powerful group of contractors who break the rules, but that it's not an industry-wide problem.

The chorus of demands for a public inquiry has been unrelenting.

They come with wild tales of intimidation, bid-rigging, inflated contracts and organized crime.

"We don't know exactly what's there, but what's being discussed in the media is very troubling," said Bertrand St-Arnaud, the Parti Québécois public security critic.

"A public inquiry will get to the bottom of all this and we feel that we have the support of the population, too."

A recent poll suggested nearly 80 per cent of Quebecers favour some sort of public inquiry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last minute indulgence ...

25% OFF
DKNY
Women's Intimates

Sale begins Dec. 18th, 2009 until Jan. 3rd, 2010

the Bay

Excludes DKNY panty table offer. Selection will vary by store. Off our regular prices.

Christmas **Meet the Harpers**

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

This is Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's 2009 Christmas card, featuring a picture of his family: wife Laureen, son Ben and daughter Rachel.

N.S. premier firm: Injury cap goes

ACCIDENTS Premier Darrell Dexter has reaffirmed his commitment to scrap Nova Scotia's $2,500 cap on insurance awards for those who suffer minor injuries in auto accidents.

Dexter, in Copenhagen for the UN climate change talks, was responding to a report that suggested his NDP government was backing away from a previous commitment.

The premier says the cap will be scrapped.

He says the cap is unfair because the province's legislation offers a broad definition of what constitutes a minor injury, which has left some people suffering from serious injuries with only $2,500 in compensation for pain and suffering.

Dexter says a number of options remain on the table, including introducing a system that would allow insurance companies to deduct a certain amount from court-ordered awards for injuries.

The premier says such a system would allow more people to seek compensation for non-monetary damages, but it would also protect insurance companies from costly court battles over minor injuries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter says the $2,200 cap on insurance awards is unfair.

Canon

For those on your *extremely* nice list.

Touch Screen Technology made easy and fun!

NEW! 720p HD movies

Touch Active Screen
3.0" EasyTouch LCD screen offers exceptionally intuitive and user-friendly fingertip controls.

Touch Select & Track
Tap the face you want to focus on and the camera will track your subject.

Touch Scroll
Easily flip between images, start a slideshow and magnify a portion of a picture.

Available in 4 colours:

PowerShot SD980 IS $399.99*

3.0" WIDE | 12.1 MEGA PIXELS | DiG!C 4 | 24-120mm* F2.8-5.9 *35mm equivalent | HD MOVIE

Take the Online Product Tour at www.canon.ca

Features at your fingertips with a **Customizable Control Ring.**

Ask about genuine Canon cases and bags

PowerShot S90 $529.99*

High Sensitivity Sensor & F2.0 Lens
Capture amazingly crisp, bright images even in the lowest lighting situations.

Control Your Camera like the Pros:
- ISO Speed Setting
- Manual Focus
- White Balance Correction
- Nostalgic Mode

10.0 MEGA PIXELS | DiG!C 4 | Dual Anti-Noise System | 28-105mm* F2.0-4.9 *35mm equivalent | RAW | HS SENSOR

Take the Online Product Tour at www.canon.ca

The most advanced PowerShot camera. It's no surprise the **Pros love it!**

PowerShot G11 $599.99*

High Sensitivity Sensor
The combination of DiG!C 4 Processor and High Sensitivity Sensor allows for the lowest noise levels and highest ISO ever in a PowerShot.

Shoot from any Angle
160° Vari-angle 2.8" PureColor Widescreen LCD with the richest colour and highest resolution within the PowerShot family.

Grow Your System with Accessories

10.0 MEGA PIXELS | DiG!C 4 | Dual Anti-Noise System | Low Light | RAW | HS SENSOR

Take the Online Product Tour at www.canon.ca

*Actual prices are determined by individual retailers and may vary. Specifications and availability subject to change without notice. Viewscreens are simulated. All products are sold separately unless otherwise indicated. Canon, PowerShot and DiG!C are registered trade-marks of Canon Inc. © 2009 Canon Canada Inc.

Visit **www.canon.ca** to find a Canon dealer near you!

Ankle bracelet cut from former terror suspect
An electronic tracking bracelet was sliced from Hassan Almrei's ankle Thursday after the government decided not to contest a decision to free the former terror suspect. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Convictions quashed in Winnipeg air crash

COURTS The pilot of a small charter plane that ran out of fuel and crashed on a busy Winnipeg street, leading to the death of one passenger, was not criminally negligent, an Appeal Court ruled Thursday.

While Mark Tayfel made mistakes, they did not merit convictions on one count of criminal negligence causing death and four counts of criminal negligence causing bodily harm, a panel of three Manitoba Court of Appeal judges wrote.

"However flawed his conduct was in addressing the sufficiency of fuel for the flight, I am of the view that this conduct ... is not conduct that meets the very high threshold of wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons," Justice Barbara Hamilton wrote on behalf of the panel.

Tayfel was a pilot with Keystone Air and had six American sport fishermen on the twin-engine Piper Navajo Chieftain that crashed at the corner of Logan Avenue and McPhillips Street in June 2002. Everyone on board was injured. Chester Jones, a 79-year-old Kansas man, died of his injuries three months later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

But upheld...

- The appeal court quashed all of the criminal negligence convictions Thursday, but upheld one count of dangerous operation of an aircraft.

3 indicted in alleged Ponzi scheme

SARNIA, ONT. Three people have been charged in connection with an alleged $3-million Ponzi scheme in southern Ontario.

RCMP say clients invested anywhere from $10,000 to $750,000 in a foreign exchange trading company called ForexBaron, which promised high rates of return on their investments.

Police identified 24 investors during a yearlong investigation.

Terrance McGill, 51, and Leeanne Houle, 41, both of Sombra, and John Paul Baron, 49, of Brooklin, are each charged with a total of 31 counts of fraud over $5,000. They will appear in Sarnia court on Jan. 18.

In a release, McGill and Houle say they are innocent and are hopeful they will be exonerated in court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds seek offers on AECL

Government seeks proposals for privatized nuclear reactor division

The federal government is formally inviting offers as it seeks to privatize the nuclear reactor division of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

In announcing the request for "investor proposals," Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt said the goal is to boost AECL's global presence while reducing the financial risk carried by taxpayers.

The research-and-technology division of the Crown corporation, including the Chalk River laboratories and its troubled medical isotope production, are not part of the government sale.

A National Bank study commissioned by the Conservative government determined there is "significant private sector interest" in a stand-alone CANDU reactor business.

However the government may have undercut its own bargaining position when Prime Minister Stephen Harper's chief spokesman described AECL as a "dysfunctional" $30-billion "sink-hole" last June.

That same month of June, the Ontario government put off a decision on new reactor construction after deciding all the bids — including one for an untried, next-generation AECL reactor — were too costly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Markham, Ont. Torch hits Toronto area

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Canucks prospect Cody Hodgson runs through children as he carries the Olympic torch in Markham, Ont. on Thursday.

Critics warn of pricier health care

ONTARIO Ontario residents should expect to pay for more health-care services and endure longer lineups if the Liberal government follows through on its threat to freeze funding for hospitals next year, critics said Thursday.

Health Minister Deb Matthews has reportedly warned hospitals that she may freeze their budgets starting in the spring because the province is grappling with a $24.7-billion deficit — the largest in its history. The most hospitals can hope for is an increase below last year's 2.1 per cent, which critics say is so meagre it has already forced hospitals to close beds and cut services.

The Liberals are now pleading poverty after foisting a health tax of up to $900 per person on Ontario taxpayers, said Progressive Conservative health critic Christine Elliott.

"The reality will be that a lot of hospitals are going to have to start cutting services to the public, and that's directly in contrast to what the minister originally said," Elliott said in an interview.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HAIR LOSS PROBLEM?
Find the solution to your hair loss problem today,
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
Natural Hair Regrowth With FU YAN's Special Treatment System & Chinese Traditional Premium Herbs. (works for Men & Women)
Reasonable, Faster, and Better Results!

*These actual before and after pictures will build your confidence in the FU YAN system. We will not deceive our customers with the use of false bald model's photographs and misleading advertising.
Many Albertan's have thanked FU YAN
RESULTS WITHIN 3 MONTHS.
Some conditions apply
• No Medication • No Surgery
• No Side Effects • No Gimmicks
FU YAN NATURAL HAIR
REGROWTH TREATMENT CENTRE™
Suite 201, 2705 Centre St. NW Calgary AB T2E 2V5
TEL: 230-0200 FAX: 230-0213

Help MANAGE STRESS & STRENGTHEN your immune system over the holiday season
100% Natural GABA
• Fast-acting relief for nervousness & acute stress
• 20% OFF
Ultimate Multi Probiotic
• Restores balance to intestinal flora and controls candida yeast overgrowth
• BUY 1, GET 1 FREE
20% OFF
GET 1 FREE
nutrition house
Better Health Lives Here
NUTRITION HOUSE, Southcentre Mall
#162 – 100 Anderson Road, SE
Calgary, AB T2J 3V1
Tel: (403) 278-7315

ADVENTURE!
Teach English Overseas
TESOL Certified in 5-Days
In-Class or Online NO DEGREE REQUIRED!
1-888-270-2941
Job Guaranteed
www.globaltesol.com
GLOBAL TESOL COLLEGE

DRAMA. SUSPENSE. COMEDY.
Visit metronews.ca to watch metrotube of the day

Sears

BOXING DAY PRICES ON NOW!

Saturday, Dec. 19 and Sunday, Dec. 20 only!

7 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT!

60% OFF

***All** men's reg.-priced Retreat®/MD and Nevada®/MD sweaters

Plus 50% OFF

***All** other men's, women's & kids' reg.-priced sweaters.

40% OFF

***All** men's reg.-priced Point Zero® denim & sportswear

20% OFF

***All** fragrances when you spend $50 or more**

**Before taxes. Valid in Sears Department stores only.

Plus, spend $75 or more† on cosmetics and fragrances with your Sears® MasterCard® or Sears Card and get a beauty booklet filled with six months of savings from January to June valued at $100.

Sears offers **$15** in beauty savings each month. **Not $10, like our competitors**

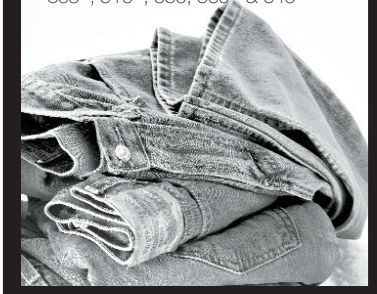
Saturday only!

Up to 50% off

36.99

LEVI'S

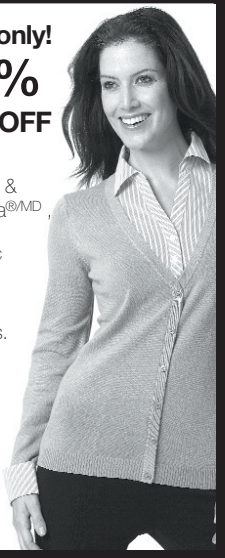
***All** men's Levi's® jeans reg.-priced at 69.99 & 74.99. Choose from 501®, 505®, 516®, 550, 569® & 640



Saturday only!

50% OFF

***All** women's reg.-priced Fall & Holiday Jessica®/MD, Jessica Weekend™/MC fashions and national brand denim fashions.



25% OFF

***All** men's and women's reg.-priced shavers, hair dryers, straighteners, curling irons and massagers.

PHILIPS
REMINGTON
WAHL
Panasonic
CONAIR

60% OFF

***All** reg.-priced Christmas Décor and ornaments.

Plus, 50% off Sears original ticketed prices on ***All** Christmas trees.

While quantities last

Store Holiday hours: Fri., Dec. 18, stores open 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Sat., Dec. 19, stores open 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

*These savings offers exclude items with prices ending in .97 and .88, '2 for' offers, Special Purchases, Special Purchase fragrance at 19.99-39.99, Lands' End and currently advertised items. †On approved credit.

NE123G309 © 2009. Sears Canada Inc.

Authorities say dead woman's family collected benefits

The daughter of an 87-year-old woman whose corpse was kept in her house for seven months after she died appeared in court in North Carolina Thursday. A sheriff's deputy said that the woman's family had continued to collect her government pension checks after she died. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Berlusconi released from hospital

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was discharged from a Milan hospital on Thursday, four days after he was attacked by a mentally ill man at a political rally. The 73-year-old leader suffered a fractured nose and broken teeth in the attack. TV footage, left, of him leaving San Raffaele Hospital showed the conservative leader and media mogul with a white bandage around his nose and face as he waved weakly with one hand.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines **Evacuees wait out volcano**

DAN AMARANTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evacuees cook their meals as lava cascades down the slopes of the Mayon volcano Thursday. Philippine security forces will forcibly evacuate thousands of residents reluctant to leave their farms near the smoldering volcano, officials said.

Closer in Copenhagen?

U.S., China make progress as clock ticks away for deal

Go Green

Large pieces of a climate deal fell into place Thursday with new offers from the U.S. and China, but other tough issues remained before American President Barack Obama and other leaders can sign off on a political accord to contain the threat of an overheated world.

An announcement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that the United States would contribute to a climate change fund amounting to $100 billion US a year by 2020 was quickly followed by an offer from China to open its books on carbon emissions to international review.

The U.S. delegation did not immediately react to the offer by Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei.

But it went a long way toward the U.S. demand that China report on its actions to limit the growth of Beijing's carbon emissions and allow experts to go over its data.

The sudden concessions on the eve of Friday's final session lifted hopes that the 193-nation conference could reach a framework agreement that could be refined into a legal accord next year on limiting greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change.

Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao were to join more than 110 world leaders for the last scheduled day of the conference, which for most of its two weeks was embroiled in angry exchanges, a partial boycott by African countries and another entire day wasted in procedural wrangling. It's also possible that once the world leaders depart, the talks could continue at the ministerial level and stretch late into the night and early Saturday.

A pair of Greenpeace activists crashed a Thursday banquet hosted by Denmark's Queen Margrethe.

The couple, dressed in formal wear, unfurled two banners reading "Politicians Talk, Leaders Act" as they walked on the red carpet reception line, and were dragged from the hall by security guards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THORKILD AMDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activists from Greenpeace gatecrash a State Dinner hosted by the Queen of Denmark Thursday. The activists were arrested.

m.metronews.ca
ScanLife

Scan this barcode for a daily video report from Copenhagen, or watch it at metronews.ca/world

News in brief

FRANCE New airline safety standards may be required after the crash of Air France Flight 447 cast doubt on the reliability of speed-measuring equipment in stormy conditions, French investigators said Thursday. The Airbus A330 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil in June, killing all 228 people aboard. Accident experts still have little idea about why the plane went down.

NEW HAMPSHIRE A woman who allegedly faked her own pregnancy has been charged with killing her pregnant friend, cutting her baby girl from her womb and kidnapping the infant. Julie Corey was initially charged with kidnapping after authorities found her and the baby in a homeless shelter in Plymouth in July. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global warming responsible for current drought: Delegates

AFRICA Millions of people in drought-stricken East Africa face hunger and poverty after seasonal rains failed again, withering crops, killing livestock and drying up ponds and streams, an aid group said Thursday,

Oxfam said some areas had received less than five per cent of normal rainfall for November.

In war-ravaged Somalia, it is the sixth failed rainy season and the worst drought for 20 years.

The failed state is already being torn apart by a brutal civil war that means nearly half its population relies on aid.

Go Green

Diplomats said the suffering underscores the need for an agreement to combat climate change.

African delegates at the Copenhagen talks on climate change have repeatedly accused rich industrialized countries of polluting the atmosphere with greenhouse gases and then leaving underdeveloped countries to deal with the resulting drought and starvation on their own.

"We face a disastrous situation in the Horn of Africa that demonstrates the terrible potential of climate change. This crisis, which is happening now, underlines why it is so important to reach an agreement in Copenhagen," said Karel De Gucht, the European Union's development commissioner.

The European Commission said it would immediately release an extra $75 million US to fund emergency relief for drought-stricken areas in the Horn of Africa. It estimates 16 million people will need aid in the coming months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Irish bishop resigns

IRELAND A Roman Catholic bishop in Ireland has resigned after an investigation into child sex abuse by clergymen accused him of ignoring reports of crimes by priests in his diocese, the Vatican said Thursday.

The one-line announcement that Bishop Donal Murray had resigned did not mention the scandal.

But a statement that Murray read to colleagues and curates in the western Irish city of Limerick left no doubt that he was going because of an Irish government investigation's damning findings about his time as an auxiliary bishop in Dublin from 1982 to 1996.

"I know full well that my resignation cannot undo the pain that survivors of abuse have suffered in the past and continue to suffer each day," Murray said.

"I humbly apologize once again to all who were abused as little children."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Inexcusable'

- The bishop, Donal Murray, had been widely expected to resign following last month's report from an Irish government-appointed commission. It ruled that Murray had handled reports of child-abusing priests "particularly badly" — and condemned his failure to crack down on one particular abuser, the Rev. Thomas Naughton, as "inexcusable."

MORE GO. LESS DOUGH.

2009 PONTIAC G5 SE

Coupe or Sedan

INCLUDES • **155 HP 2.2L ECOTEC® VVT Engine • Air Conditioning • Power Windows, Door Locks and Mirrors** • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seatbacks • Driver and Front-passenger Frontal Air Bags • Head Curtain Side-impact Air Bags • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack • Remote Keyless Entry System • 16-in. Wheels • 4-wheel ABS

0%† FOR 72 MONTHS†
FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

E F HWY: 5.8L/100 km (49 mpg)
CITY: 8.4L/100 km (34 mpg)▼

2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE SE

INCLUDES • **106 HP 1.6L 4-cyl. DOHC Engine • Air Conditioning • Power Windows and Door Locks** • Power Sunroof • Remote Keyless Entry System • Cruise Control • OnStar® with 1-year of the Safe & Sound Plan‡‡ • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack

0%† FOR 60 MONTHS†
FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

E F HWY: 5.7L/100 km (50 mpg)
CITY: 7.9L/100 km (36 mpg)▼

★★★★★ FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING

2009 PONTIAC VIBE

INCLUDES • **132 HP 1.8L 4-cyl. VVTi Engine • Auxiliary Audio Input Jack • Standard CD player with AM/FM, Clock and Equalizer** • 60/40 Split-Folding Rear Seatbacks • Driver and Front-passenger Frontal Air Bags • Head Curtain Side-impact Air Bags • 4-wheel Disc Brakes with ABS and Brake Assist • OnStar® with 1-year of the Safe & Sound Plan¥

0%† FOR 36 MONTHS†
FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

E F HWY: 6.2L/100 km (46 mpg)
CITY: 7.8L/100 km (36 mpg)▼

HOLIDAY GIFT ALBERTAPONTIAC.COM

PONTIAC BUICK GMC

GM Canada THE BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA 5 YEARS 160,000 KM WHICHEVER COMES FIRST, EXCLUDES MEDIUM-DUTY TRUCK. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.▲
- POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY
- ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
- COURTESY TRANSPORTATION

STUDENT BONUS.ca GM pays the first 2 monthly payments¥

OnStar®‡‡

For the latest information, visit us at gm.ca, drop by your local Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE: ‡ $1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) available on all 2009/2010 Pontiac Buick GMC models excluding Savana and Medium Duty Trucks. † Financing available on approved GMAC credit only. 0% purchase financing available for 72/60/36 months on 2009 Pontiac G5 (1SM)/G3 (1SM)/Vibe (1SQ). Down payment and / or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment / trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 72/60/36 months, the monthly payment is $138.89/$166.67/$277.78. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. #/† Offers apply as indicated to new or demonstrator models. Dealer trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited offers subject to change without notice. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in Alberta Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only. See your GM dealer for details. ▼Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide Ratings. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ◊ U.S. Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ‡‡ OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery), wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Policy and details and system limitations. Additional information can be found in the OnStar Owner's Guide. ¥ GMCL will pay the first two months' GMAC finance payments for finance terms up to 60 months only, paid up to a maximum monthly finance payment of $400 (tax included). Offer applicable to equal monthly payment finance agreements with GMAC and subject to GMAC credit approval. License, insurance, registration and administration fees not included and may be payable upon signing. Program not available to recipients of any previous GM student/graduate offer. Visit gmstudentbonus.ca for more details.

Fugitive doctor living in tent stabs self as police close in

An Indiana doctor on the run for five years on charges of fraud and malpractice was arrested on a snowy mountain in northern Italy, and stabbed himself in the neck as he was taken into custody, police said. Mark Weinberger, 46, had been living in a tent, police in the town of Aosta said Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. study shows a body language bias

Through a set of ingeniously concocted experiments reported in Friday's edition of the journal Science, researchers show that white characters in TV series display far more negative body language toward their black peers than to members of their own race.

The bias conveyed by these body clues is not only recognized subconsciously by people who watch the shows, but significantly influences their feelings about the black characters.

"Sadly, we observed that non-verbal race bias is a typical pattern on scripted television shows," lead study author Max Weisbuch said in a release on the paper.

"Sadly, we observed that non-verbal race bias is a typical pattern on scripted television shows."
Max Weisbuch, study author

In the first experiment, researchers used clips from 11 different television programs — including Bones, Grey's Anatomy, CSI and Scrubs — and digitally removed one of the characters participating in the scenes.

They then muted any on-screen conversations and recruited college students who had never seen the episodes to watch.

"We took out the target character, who was either black or white, and the (remaining) character was always white," senior study author Nalini Ambady said.

"Then we just showed people and said 'how much does this person like the person they're interacting with?'" said Ambady, a Tufts University social psychologist.

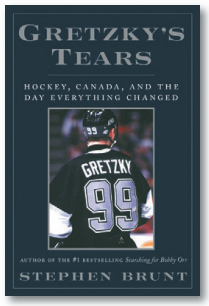
The student viewers, it was found, consistently judged the body language expressed by the visible white characters as more negative whenever the unseen character in the scene was black.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

3 DAYS ONLY

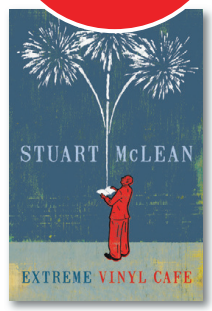
Saturday Dec. 19th to Monday Dec. 21st

3 BOOKS 50% off*



Reg $34.95
NOW $17.48
irewards $15.73

Reg $34.95
NOW $17.48
irewards $15.73



Reg $36.00
NOW $18.00
irewards $16.20

pocket paperbacks

buy 3 get the 4th FREE*

Thousands of titles.

Chapters Indigo COLES

*The 3 Books 3 Days offer applies to above featured books only. The Buy 3 get the 4th Free offer is valid on in stock English Adult paperbacks priced at $13.99 or less and in stock French paperbacks priced at $15.00 or less, all amounts before taxes. Kids' and teens' paperbacks are not included in this offer. Free book must be equal or lesser value than the lowest priced book purchased. The above offers are valid in Alberta stores only from December 19th-21st, 2009 for a limited time only, while quantities last. Offers not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion (excluding everyday irewards discount) and cannot be used to adjust amount paid on previous purchases. Not valid on kiosk and online orders. We reserve the right to change or end these offers at any time without notice. ™ irewards is a trademark of Indigo Books & Music Inc.

DNA exonerates man after 35 years in jail

FLORIDA James Bain made his first-ever cellphone call Thursday, dialling his elderly mother to tell her he had been freed after 35 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit.

Mobile devices didn't exist in 1974, the year he was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping a nine-year-old boy and raping him in a nearby field.

Neither did the sophisticated DNA testing that officials more recently used to determine he could not have been the rapist.

Bain had spent more time in prison than any of the 246 inmates previously exonerated by DNA evidence in the United States, according to the Innocence Project of Florida.

As Bain walked out of the Polk County courthouse Thursday, wearing a black T-shirt that said "Not Guilty," he spoke of his deep faith and said he does not harbour any anger.

"No, I'm not angry," he said. "Because I've got God."

The 54-year-old said he looks forward to eating fried turkey and drinking Dr Pepper. He said he also hopes to go back to school.

Lawyers from the Innocence Project of Florida got involved in Bain's case earlier this year after he filed several previous petitions asking for DNA testing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wrongfully jailed

- Bain was convicted largely on the strength of the victim's witness identification, even though testing available at the time did not definitively link him to the crime. The boy picked Bain out of a photo lineup, although there are lingering questions about whether detectives steered him.

Stepfather says needles came from ritualistic sessions

BRAZIL The stepfather of a two-year-old boy found with 42 needles in his body confessed to jabbing them into the toddler during weeks of rituals with a woman he claimed received instructions through trances, Brazilian police said Thursday.

Roberto Carlos Magalhaes, a 30-year-old bricklayer, told detectives that the woman who went into a trance would "command him to stick the needles in the boy's body," police inspector Helder Fernandes Santana said in a telephone interview.

The two held repeated sessions over several weeks, and perhaps longer, in which they inserted the needles in the child, Santana said.

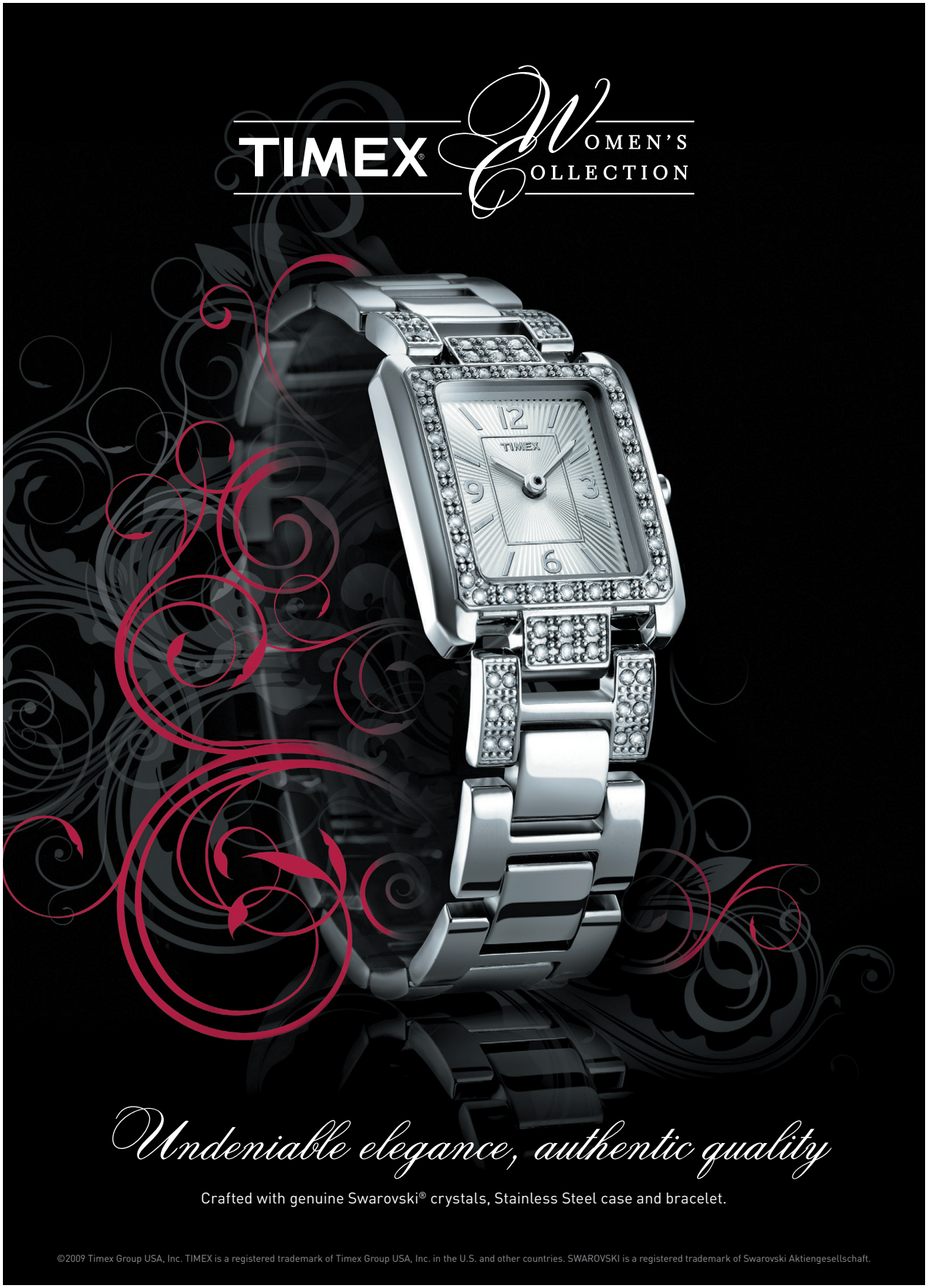
"According to his confession, he acted under influence of the woman, but it was he who stuck the needles in the boy's body," the inspector said. The stepfather, the woman who went into trances and another woman at some of the rituals have been arrested, though no charges have yet been filed.

An enraged crowd of more than 100 people surrounded and hurled rocks at the police station in the small northeastern city of Ibotirama where the suspects were held Wednesday night. Santana said they broke out a window of his own car because they wrongly believed the suspects were in it.

The child, meanwhile, was airlifted to the heart unit of a hospital in northeastern Brazil Thursday because two of the needles are close to his heart, but it was not immediately clear when doctors might be able to remove them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIMEX® Women's Collection



Undeniable elegance, authentic quality

Crafted with genuine Swarovski® crystals, Stainless Steel case and bracelet.

©2009 Timex Group USA, Inc. TIMEX is a registered trademark of Timex Group USA, Inc. in the U.S. and other countries. SWAROVSKI is a registered trademark of Swarovski Aktiengesellschaft.

WWW.TIMEX.CA

Walmart
Save money. Live better.™
TM/MC
Connection Centre

It's better than prepaid!

Koodo Mobile
Don't Run Out of Minutes
No Top-Ups Required
No Fixed-Term Contract
Plans From $15 a Month
All Plans Include Text
Per-Second Billing
koodomobile.com
No System Access Fee.

$0 With the Koodo™ Tab[1]
LG Keybo
• 2.0 megapixel camera
• MP3 player
#8712551
Get a $100 gift card[2]
Activation Included.

$0 With the Koodo™ Tab[1]
Samsung Slyde
• 2.0 megapixel camera
• MP3 player
#8714273
Get a $100 gift card[2]
Activation Included.

$0 With the Koodo™ Tab[1]
Samsung U410
• Camera
• Speakerphone
#8710745/8710724
Get a $25 gift card[2]
Activation Included.

$0 With the Koodo™ Tab[1]
MOTO VE440
• 1.3 megapixel camera
• MP3 player with microSD™ slot
#8714980
Get a $25 gift card[2]
Activation Included.

koodo mobile™
Good call

(1) Subject to approved credit. Prices do not include taxes. (2) $100 gift card with new activations only of a new QWERTY phone. $25 gift card with new activations only of a new non-QWERTY phone.The contract phones in this advertisement are available in Walmart stores with a Connection Centre. Visit walmart.ca to find a Connection Centre nearest you. Product availability may be determined by local wireless coverage.
Prices effective December 11 2009 to January 3 2010. While quantities last.

Foreign adoptions plunge in U.S.
The number of foreign children adopted by American citizens dropped by 27 per cent in the 2009 fiscal year, reaching the lowest level since 1996. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Horowitz, owner of Ganja Gourmet, where a whole pizza (made with "cannabutter") is $89.

Gourmet munchies

Denver shop serves medical marijuana dishes

Any slacker living over his parents' garage can make pot brownies, but gourmet chefs are taking the art of cooking with marijuana to a higher level.

In Denver, a new medical marijuana shop called Ganja Gourmet serves cannabis-infused specialties such as pizza, hummus and lasagna.

Across town in the Mile-High City, a Caribbean restaurant plans to offer classes on how to make multi-course meals with pot in every dish. And in Southern California, a low-budget TV show called Cannabis Planet has won fans with a cooking segment showing viewers how to use weed in teriyaki chicken, shrimp capellini, and steak sandwiches.

The evolution of pot cooking was perhaps inevitable given the explosion of medical marijuana in recent years. Many health-conscious patients would rather eat the drug than smoke it.

"When I started using marijuana, I was eating a brownie every day. I gained a ton of weight," said Michael DeLao, a former hotel chef who hosts "Cannabis Planet" on Los Angeles's KJLA.

"Our food is so great, you need a license to eat it!"
Ganja Gourmet T-shirt

"Then I learned how to really cook with marijuana, and once more people learn about all the possibilities, we're going to see a lot more people wanting this in their food."

Ganja Gourmet's menu includes lasagna ("LaGanja"), "Panama Red Pizza" and an olive tapenade called "ganjanade," along with sweets such as cheesecake, muffins and brownies. Employees wear tie-dyed T-shirts that proclaim, "Our food is so great, you need a license to eat it!!!"

All patrons must show a medical marijuana card. And the food isn't cheap. A whole pizza sells for $89; a dozen sweet treats called Almond Horns are $120.

"The food is really good," said Jamie Hillyer, a 41-year-old medical marijuana patient who paid $12 for a serving of vegetable LaGanja. Hillyer said that he can't taste the weed in the food and that it gives him a "more mellow" buzz than smoking pot.

Chefs are able to use marijuana in cooking because its key ingredient, the mind-altering drug THC, is fat-soluble, meaning it binds with oils or fats.

Chefs put leaves or buds in a food processor and grind the marijuana into green flour. Then they add the flour to oil or butter, cook it slowly for up to a couple of days while the THC binds to the fat, and strain out the green flakes.

The result is "cannabutter." Two teaspoons contain about the amount of THC in an ounce of weed.

Customers are allowed one menu item every 45 minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Insurgents hacked into video feeds from American drones

INTELLIGENCE Insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan have hacked into live video feeds from Predator drones, a key weapon in a Pentagon spy system that is the U.S. military's eyes in the sky for surveillance and intelligence collection.

Though militants could see the video, there is no evidence they were able to jam the electronic signals from the unmanned aerial craft or take control of the vehicles, a senior defence official said Thursday, speaking anonymously.

Obtaining the video feeds can provide insurgents with critical information about what the military may be targeting, including buildings, roads and other facilities.

Shiite fighters in Iraq used off-the-shelf software programs such as SkyGrabber — available for as little as $25.95 on the Internet — to regularly capture drone video feeds, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. The interception was possible because the remotely flown planes had unprotected communications links.

The military has found evidence of at least one instance when Afghan insurgents also monitored drone video.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spain increases Afghan mission by 500 troops

SURGE Spain's defence minister has announced plans to send 511 more soldiers to Afghanistan in response to President Barack Obama's request for more help to fight the Taliban.

Carme Chacon says most of the soldiers will train Afghan soldiers so the Kabul government can eventually fend for itself.

The deployment needs approval from Spain's Parliament. It would raise the Spanish troop presence in Afghanistan to more than 1,500.

In November, Spain sent an additional 200 troops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STITCHES STITCHES STITCHES STITCHES

FIND ALL YOUR GREAT LAST MINUTE GIFTS AT THESE LOCATIONS:

STITCHES
STITCHESONLINE COM

Northland Village Shoppes
Signal Hill Centre
North Hill Centre
Beacon Hill
Chinook Centre

Check with your store for hours of operation

*Off original ticket price. Some exceptions may apply. Excludes new arrivals. Limited time offer. While quantities last. Product may not be exactly as shown.

BOW VALLEY COLLEGE

Return to Learning

Continuing Education at Bow Valley College can get you where you want to go ... *faster.*

Upcoming programs include:

- Accounting Applications Certificate
- Home Inspections Certificate
- Human Resources Certificate
- Legal Administrative Assistant Certificate

Galina, *Accounting Applications Certificate student*

APPLY TODAY

bowvalleycollege.ca/conted

403-410-1595

American pursues custody battle in Brazil

An American father arrived in Brazil on Thursday, hoping to win a five-year fight for custody of his son, who lives with relatives of his deceased wife. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. hunts drug cash

Every day, criminals shove money from U.S. drug sales in their shoes, tape it to their torsos, stash it under dashboards — or just wire it electronically to Mexico. It all adds up to $25 billion a year.

A highly touted U.S. Treasury Department program aimed at starving Mexican drug cartels of that cash is currently blocking just $3 million, an Associated Press investigation has found.

That's in addition to $58 million seized under a new initiative at the U.S.-Mexico border. The figures suggest that $99.75 of every $100 the cartels ship south is getting through. The money is fuelling a war that has killed 14,000 in three years.

Bundles of $100 bills that add up to billions are sneaked in each year and then laundered into ostensibly legitimate funds at car dealerships, banks, pharmacies, restaurants and resorts.

That money pays Mexican farmers to grow more marijuana and Colombian smugglers to sneak in more cocaine. It bribes Mexican soldiers and U.S. border patrol agents, and pays assassins to kill rival smugglers or prosecutors.

"This is the brilliance of the drug cartels. They pay ordinary people to get cash across the border for them, and then easily launder it into working capital," said Louise Shelley, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center director at George Mason University.

U.S. law enforcement agents have recently tried to get tough on controlling the money, searching southbound cars at the border and freezing bank accounts of cartel bosses.

"We recognize that focusing on drugs and weapons, without stopping the money, is not going to stop the cartels," said Assistant U.S. Treasury Secretary David Cohen.

The Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act allows the president to designate individuals and corporations as drug traffickers, freezing their bank accounts and penalizing people for doing business with them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Losing battle

- The U.S. has blocked $16 million from Mexican drug cartels in the past decade. This pales next to the estimated $25 billion in drug proceeds that are smuggled out of the U.S. each year.

'Froggy' saved a Canadian officer; will Canada step in to save him?

Froggy cannot forget the horrific blast.

It was June 2008, as hundreds of Canadian and Afghan soldiers swept through villages in the dangerous Panjwaii district. Froggy, as always, was sticking close to the man he calls "my major."

A six-year medic in the Afghan National Army, Mohammad Rahman, 42, picked up his nickname because of his raspy voice. Sitting in a medic hut in Kandahar city, he takes a deep breath as he reaches back to that fateful June day.

The married father of seven was lured from the Afghan army when a Canadian officer promised him more than the $300 US a month he was earning. He became an interpreter for the Canadian military.

That day, Edmonton-based Major Mark Campbell was part of the operational mentor and liaison team — Canadian soldiers who work closely with their Afghan counterparts. Froggy sat down to clean his socks and boots, urging Campbell to watch his step.

"When he stand up, then explosion," Froggy said, his voice falling to a hoarse whisper. As a medic, Froggy was used to treating horrific wounds. Nothing prepared him for this.

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Interpreter Mohammad "Froggy" Rahman is seen in Kandahar on Thursday.

"I see my major — he lost one leg above the knee-joint completely — no boots, no legs," he said, tears welling.

Froggy sprang into action. He applied what were likely life-saving tourniquets to the badly injured Campbell.

After some minutes, Campbell said: "Froggy, I'm sure I lost my legs," Froggy recalled.

"I said, 'No, Sir, you're OK.'"

"'No, I'm OK but I lost both my legs.' He knew."

Froggy never saw him again.

As he finishes his story, Froggy talks about the one thing that scares him: The prospect of the Canadian forces leaving him behind.

His father, who died last month, and other relatives have received a dreaded "night letter" from the Taliban, warning he should quit his interpreter work or face death at their hands.

Froggy is pleading with the Canadian government to grant him, his wife, and their four daughters and three sons entry to Canada.

"I request from the government of Canada ... to think of us, because we are working for Canadians very honestly," he said.

Campbell has recovered from his wounds. Froggy is now on his sixth boss — but Campbell, who still writes to him every few months, holds a special place.

"We stay like brothers," Froggy said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. hits al-Qaida targets in Pakistan

PAKISTAN Two U.S. missile strikes pummelled targets inside the main sanctuary used by al-Qaida and the Taliban along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, killing 17 people Thursday, local officials said.

The drone attacks came amid renewed political instability in Pakistan, with President Asif Ali Zardari facing calls for resignation after the Supreme Court struck down an amnesty that had protected him from corruption charges.

The missiles rained down on North Waziristan, a haven for many militant groups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

HATE CRIMES The U.S. Justice Department brought 25 hate crime cases in the year ending in September, more than any year since 2001. An Obama administration official said Thursday he was "shocked" by the drop-off in prosecutions during the Bush years. In 2006, only 12 were filed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ship sinks off Lebanese coast: Officer
A senior Lebanese army officer says a ship carrying 83 crew members has sunk off the Lebanese coast in stormy weather. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists witness deep-sea eruption

Volcano explodes 4,000 feet beneath ocean's surface

Scientists have witnessed the eruption of a deep-sea volcano for the first time ever, capturing on video the fiery bubbles of molten lava as they exploded 4,000 feet (1,220 metres) beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean.

Researchers are callling it a major geological discovery.

A submersible robot witnessed the eruption during an underwater expedition in May near Samoa, and the high-definition videos were presented Thursday at a geophysics conference in San Francisco.

Scientists hope the images, data and samples obtained during the mission will shed new light on how the ocean's crust was formed and how the earth behaves when tectonic plates ram into each other.

"It was an underwater Fourth of July," said Bob Embley, a marine geologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Since the water pressure at that depth suppresses the violence of the volcano's explosions, we could get the underwater robot within feet of the active eruption."

The eruption was a spectacular sight: Bright-red magma bubbles shot up releasing a smoke-like cloud of sulphur, then froze almost instantly as they hit the cold sea water, causing black rock to sink to the sea floor. The submersible hovered near the blasts, it's robotic arm reaching into the lava to collect samples. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Long wait...

- Witnessing a deep-sea volcanic eruption was 25 years in the making. Researchers from NOAA and the National Science Foundation had studied deep-sea volcanoes extensively but never witnessed an eruption. Eighty per cent of the earth's volcanic activity occurs in the sea, but their underwater locations have complicated scientific efforts to this point.

France **A whale of a Christmas**

LIONEL CRONENEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man dressed as Santa Claus poses with a killer whale named Valentin, at the Marineland aquatic park in Antibes, southeastern France, Thursday. Valentin was born in 1995 in the aquatic park and weighs 1,250 kilograms.

Spokesman's son murdered

HONDURAS Gunmen on motorcycles killed the son of a Honduran military spokesman and the driver of the taxi in which he was travelling on Thursday.

It was unclear if the shooting of Edwin Canaca Mejia was related to his father's work as a well-known face on an army-sponsored television program. Honduras has high levels of violent street crime, and no motive was identified in Thursday's killings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Remains of queen's palace discovered

CLEOPATRA Archaeologists on Thursday hoisted a nine-ton temple pylon from the waters of the Mediterranean that was part of the palace complex of the fabled Cleopatra before it became submerged for centuries in the harbour of Alexandria.

The pylon, which once stood at the entrance to a temple of Isis, is to be the centrepiece of an ambitious underwater museum planned by Egypt to showcase the sunken city, believed to have been toppled into the sea by earthquakes in the 4th century.

Divers and underwater archaeologists used a giant crane and ropes to lift the nine-ton, 7.4-foot-tall pylon, covered with muck and seaweed, out of the murky waters.

The pylon was deposited ashore as Egypt's top archaeologist, Zahi Hawass, and other officials watched. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOME PHONE LINES
ALL FEATURES FREE!
Voicemail
Call Waiting
Caller ID
Call Forwarding
AND MUCH MORE!

ENHANCED	UNLIMITED CANADA	ONE RATE	GLOBAL
$14.95/MONTH	$19.95/MONTH	$29.95/MONTH	$39.95/MONTH
UNLIMITED LOCAL CALLING	UNLIMITED CALLING TO CANADA	UNLIMITED CALLING TO CANADA & U.S.A.	UNLIMITED CALLING TO 25 COUNTRIES!
ALL FEATURES FREE	ALL FEATURES FREE	ALL FEATURES FREE	ALL FEATURES FREE

LIMITED TIME OFFER
6 MONTHS FREE!
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!
KEEP YOUR EXISTING PHONE NUMBER!
comwave
403-451-5800
www.comwave.ca
While Comwave strives for accuracy in our advertising, Comwave reserves the right to correct any error in pricing or information at any time. HOME PHONE LINES: VoIP 911 has certain limitations versus traditional 911. The Global Home Phone plan is limited to 3000 minutes per month. Excess minutes used will be billed at 3.99 cents per minute. Unlimited Canada plan does not include calls to the Yukon, Nunavut or N.W.T. One Rate plan does not include calls to the Yukon, Nunavut, N.W.T, Hawaii or Alaska. The rates are based on a 3 year term. Satisfaction Guaranteed within 90 days. If you are not 100% satisfied, you may cancel your home phone service no questions asked. Rate guarantee is based on competitors lowest advertised rate for like services. The 6 months free promotion does not apply to the Global Home Phone Plan. Limited to 3000 minutes per month. The rates are based on a 3 year term. 6 Months Free - You get 3 months free immediately upon activation of the service. Get an additional 3 months free if you transfer your existing Home Phone Line to Comwave within the first 3 months. Terms and conditions apply, see www.comwave.net for details

CALGARY
Publisher, Steve Shrout
Managing Editor, Darren Krause
Distribution Manager, Dave Mak

METRO CANADA
Group Publisher, Bill McDonald
Assoc Managing Editor, Tarin Elbert
Enter/Lifestyle Editor, Dean Lisk
Asst Managing Editor, Amber Shortt
Art Director, Laila Hakim
National Sales Director, Peter Bartrem
Interactive/Mrktng Director, Jodi Brown

Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA: TORONTO | OTTAWA | MONTREAL | HALIFAX | EDMONTON | CALGARY | VANCOUVER

Comment

Wish lists for homeless

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey

metronews.ca/paskey

Insulated work boots — size 12. Winter jacket — large. Wal-Mart gift card. Transit tickets. Gift card for Co-Op. Gift card for my son. A new wheelchair.

Welcome to the Christmas wish gift list of Calgary's homeless.

Their requests are achingly sensible.

This year, there's a special appeal to help them out. You'll read short stories of Calgarians and their wishlists at www.homelesspartners.com

The Homeless Partners Christmas Wish List initiative is four years old in Calgary. This year a team of volunteers, led by Brandi Mooney, interviewed some 600 Calgarians about their stories and their wish list. Some 300 stories are on the website, with another 300 being added. Here is a sample:

Loden is originally from the Sudan and came to Canada two years ago looking for a better life. He finds the overcrowding at the shelter to be stressful at times. He likes sports, especially soccer and badminton and likes the cheery holiday season.

Gift wanted: Transit tickets, badminton racquet and birdie.

Anna-Marie was born and raised in Calgary. After her fiancé lost his job they could no longer afford their home or to take care of their young son.

Gift wanted: Toy for her 11-month-old son.

"Anna-Marie was born and raised in Calgary. After her fiancé lost his job they could no longer afford their home or to take care of their young son."

Emmanuel was born and raised in Calgary. He finds not being able to afford rent prices in Calgary stressful and has been at the shelter for almost four months while he looks for decent affordable housing. Emmanuel likes to draw, listen to music and he loves Oreo cookies and football — his favourite team is the St. Louis Rams even though they aren't doing well!

Gift wanted: White baseball cap with Superman logo on the front.

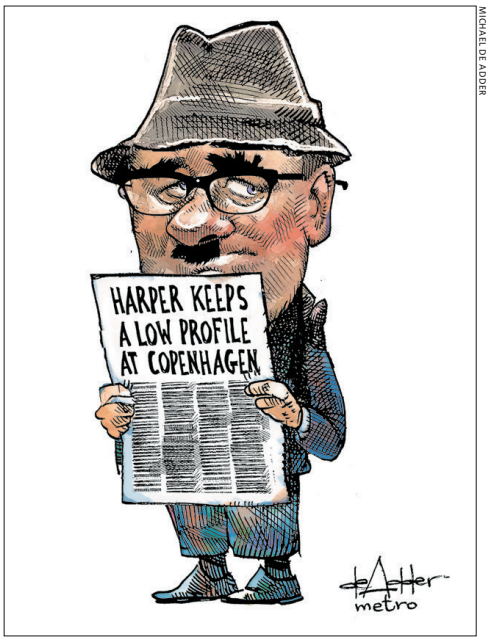
Perry moved from New Brunswick looking for work in construction. He is working part time for a temp agency but finances are a struggle with Calgary's high rent and cost of living. He enjoys outdoor sports and the snow, and Christmas songs put him in the holiday mood.

Gift wanted: CSA approved, non-steel toe work boots, size 11.

Intrigued? Go online to read more, and register to give a gift. Drop it off at the Drop-In Centre's loading dock, or park in the cul de sac where you can park quickly and run your gift in.

To Homeless Partner's credit, the site offers a candid window into feelings about life at the Drop-In Centre. The short profiles are worth the read. Gifts will be handed out Christmas morning.

Janice Paskey teaches at Mount Royal University and is a volunteer with Westwood Hockey.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Girls and women: No limits on dreams

Belinda Stronach

Over the past generation our society has made considerable progress in reducing barriers to women's success. Yet, despite our progress, troubling inequalities persist and affect the lives of millions of girls and young women around the world.

In developing countries, one person in eight is a girl or a young woman age 10 to 24. As the fastest growing segment of the population, their welfare is a fundamental input for key economic and social outcomes. Giving these girls an education, legal protection, health care, and access to training and job skills will significantly contribute to what is known as the girl effect on development. A girl who finishes high school has access to a job that pays more than subsistence wages and the chance to start a small business. Educated women invest 90 per cent of their incomes into their families, compared to roughly 30 per cent by their male counterparts.

The gap between what we know and what we do, between our ability to end poverty and our efforts to do so lie at the heart of the problem. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) challenge the world's leading economies to meet targets framed in results-oriented terms. MDG 3, for example, calls to promote gender equality and empower women. The target was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. Four years after the 2005 target date, gender parity in education has yet to be achieved.

"Canada must take the lead and call to put girls and women at the centre of the development narrative."

As Canada prepares to host the G8 and G20 summits in June 2010, we must use this historic opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the advancement of girls and women worldwide. Canada must take the lead and call to put girls and women at the centre of the development narrative. Doing so will yield huge returns in the health of families, peace building, and global economic development.

On this critical issue Canada will be standing together with governments such as Spain and the Netherlands, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, global foundations and the private sector in responding to the mounting evidence that investing in girls will break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and, conversely, failure to do so could cost the world's poorest countries billions in economic growth.

For more information on how the NGO community is coming together on this issue, please visit www.girlsandwomen.com.

Belinda Stronach is chair of the Belinda Stronach Foundation.

Worth mentioning

NASA, Google offer ways to track greenhouse gases

The question is a potential deal-killer: If nations ever agree to slash greenhouse gas emissions, how will the world know if they live up to their pledges?

The answer is in space, experts say — both outer space and cyberspace.

Go Green

NASA, the wonder agency of the 1960s, and Google, the go-to company of the early 21st century, are trying to give the world the ability to monitor both the carbon dioxide pollution and the levels of forest destruction that contribute to global warming.

"Just having the thing flying around there imaging would just about make everybody act differently," said Prof. Steve Pacala, director of the Princeton Environmental Institute. "The idea that you could pull a fast one would be different."

The monitoring problem "is a big one because we don't know what we're counting," said Melinda Kimball, senior vice-president of the UN Foundation.

Google, meanwhile, has rolled out a new program call Earth Engine, which essentially is a massive storehouse for satellite and other data that forest countries will be able to access for free by the time of the next UN climate conference in Mexico next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

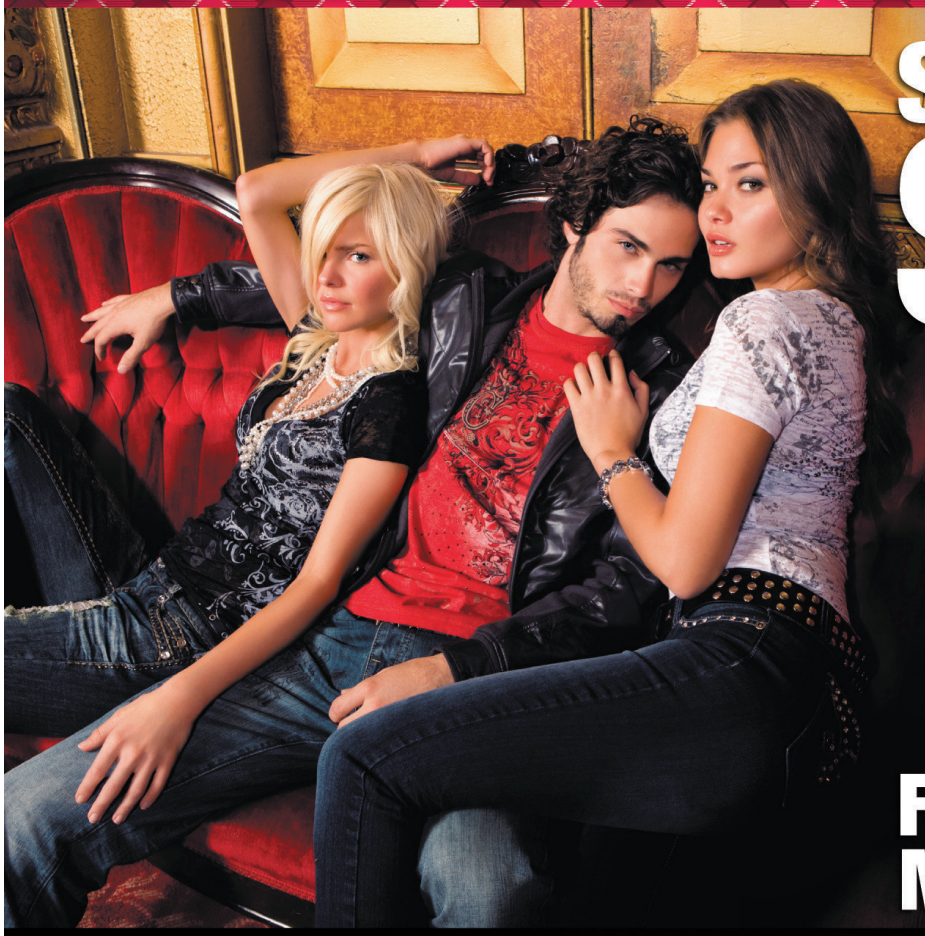
We Know What You're Thinking

63% The percentage of Canadian homeowners who think that when companies call a product "green," it is usually just a marketing tactic.

IPSOS REID

Tell us your views by email to calgaryletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrocalgary
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

URBAN PLANET



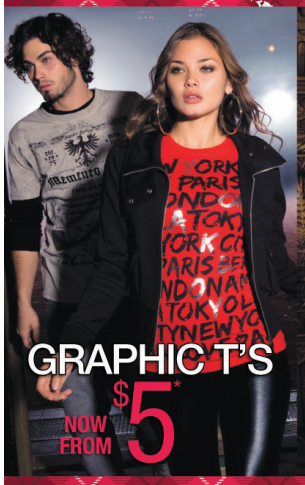
STOREWIDE SALE

50% off*

FALL & WINTER MERCHANDISE!

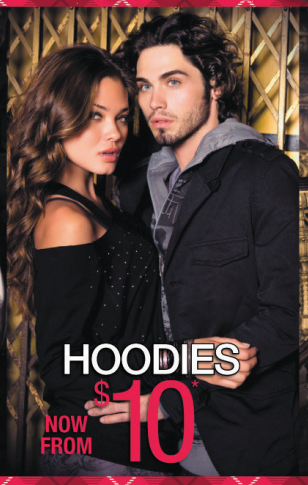
AND REMEMBER, THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE TO SHOP FOR

GIFTS THAT ROCK!



GRAPHIC T'S
NOW FROM $5*

SWEATERS
NOW FROM $10*



HOODIES
NOW FROM $10*

PLAID SHIRTS
NOW FROM $10*

OUTERWEAR
NOW FROM $20*

FIND AN URBAN PLANET LOCATION NEAR YOU TODAY!

MARLBOROUGH MALL
3800 Memorial Drive N.E.
403-204-7696

SUNRIDGE MALL
2525 - 36th Street N.E.
403-293-6775

DEERFOOT OUTLET MALL
901 - 64th Avenue N.E.
403-275-4936

CROSS IRON MILLS
261055 Cross Iron Blvd.
403-730-5062

*Off original ticket price. Some exceptions may apply. Excludes new arrivals. Limited time offer. While quantities last. Product may not be exactly as shown.

British Airways to fly over holidays

British Airways has won an emergency court injunction to stop a 12-day strike by its cabin crew, bringing relief to around one million travellers whose Christmas holiday plans were threatened by the planned walkout. The High Court backed BA's claim that the ballot of around 13,000 workers by the Unite labour union was illegal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	N.GAS	OIL	TSX
US 93.43¢	US $5.76	US $72.65	11,473.06
US 0.87¢	US 30.6¢	US 1¢	163.98

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Inflation jumps again

Second straight month of rising prices reverses slide

Canadians are again starting to pay more for most things they consume as the inflation rate jumped to one per cent in November, the second straight month prices have risen sharply.

While higher gasoline prices were mostly to blame, Statistics Canada said the advance was broad-based. Prices rose in seven of eight major components tracked by the agency, and in all 10 provinces.

As well, the month-to-month index was higher with prices rising 0.5 per cent from October.

The last two months have seen a complete reversal in the inflation story in Canada, which previously was one of falling prices and negative inflation.

But a rapid decline in gas prices from record highs in July 2008 has reversed the trend, the agency said.

"Prices at the pump are now exerting upward pressure on the Consumer Price Index after an extended period in which they were the main contributors to year-over-year declines in overall consumer prices," the agency explained.

In November, gas prices were 14.1 per cent higher than at the same time last year and 13.1 per cent lower in October from the previous year.

Other components pushing prices higher were food, transportation, household operations, and furniture and equipment.

In addition, consumers paid 7.8 per cent more for car insurance and 3.2 per cent more for health and personal care.

Meanwhile, the cost of passenger vehicles fell six per cent, and shelter costs declined 1.7 per cent as natural gas prices were almost 30 per cent lower this year than last.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for more Business news on your smartphone.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Shaolin monks **Foray into market**

XINHUA/WANG SONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this image released by China's Xinhua News Agency Thursday, students of a kung fu school perform shaolin kung fu (martial arts) at the Shaolin Temple in Dengfeng. The famed fighting monks of Shaolin temple plan a foray into modern finance. The local government entity that manages the 1,500-year-old Buddhist temple's tourism-related assets, plans to join with China Travel Service in a venture that will seek to raise up to 1 billion yuan ($146.4 million US) in a share listing on either a mainland market or in Hong Kong, reports said Thursday.

Shoppers spend, survey shows

CONSUMERS Recession. What recession?

A new survey finds that despite the economic downturn, Canadian shoppers are opening their wallets a lot wider this year than last.

Moneris Solutions Corp., a debit and credit card payments processor, says its figures show sales are up leading into the last weekend before Christmas.

The Moneris survey tracks national sales in the final five weeks of the pre-holiday season.

It says in the first weekend of December, shoppers spent five per cent more overall, with department stores the clear winner as sales shot up 12.8 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

GROWTH Economists at some of Canada's largest banks say the Canadian and world economies will continue to rebound out of recession next year. The economists predict global growth will rise by as much as four per cent overall in 2010. But unlike previous upswings, they say the global recovery will be spearheaded by growth in emerging economies, with industrialized countries lagging behind.

BERNANKE A U.S. Senate panel has approved the nomination of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke to run the nation's central bank for another four years. The Senate Banking Committee voted 16-7 on Thursday to send Bernanke's nomination to the full Senate for consideration.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Service Directory

To advertise contact Blaine Schlechter at 403-444-0136

FINANCIAL

Brokers National 500 loan service
by phone, no credit refused, quick and easy, payable over 3, 6, or 12 installments.
Call toll free: 1-877-776-1660
www.moneyprovider.com

HEALTH & WELLNESS

"BIGGEST LOSER" Weight Loss Challenge
12 Weeks to a NEW YOU
CASH Prizes!
Call Gillian 403-255-2355

OPTICAL

Golden Optical
CHRISTMAS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF
1 HOUR SERVICE AVAILABLE
GOLDEN OPTICAL
Dragon City Mall
#115, 328 Centre St. S.
Calgary 403-262-8123
GOLDEN OPHTHALMIC
Harvest Hills Crossing
1117, 9650 Harvest Hills Blvd. NE
Calgary 403-263-6123

PSYCHICS

The gift your iPhone wants to see under the tree (and it's free!)
Available on the App Store

RENOWNED SPIRITUAL HEALER
SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS
RETURN OF LOVED ONE
BUSINESS SUCCESS
REMOVE BAD SPIRITS
STOP DIVORCE
100% RESULTS IN 1 WEEK
CALL MADIA
403-475-2589
OR 403-305-2129

LEGAL

MYSTIC EYE SPIRITUAL READINGS
47 YEARS EXPERIENCE
100% Guaranteed Results
Come in today for a better tomorrow
2 FOR 1 READINGS
Palm • Tarot • Crystal Ball • Energy Readings
403.228.2258 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS OF LIFE

Canadian Legal Resources Centre Inc.
403-229-2774 • www.canadianlegal.org
UNCONTESTED DIVORCE
Legal Separation Agreements
Spousal Land Transfers
CRIMINAL RECORD?
Canadian Pardons • US Travel Waivers
Fingerprinting
21+ years experience.
Voted #1 Paralegal. Why pay more?
Open Monday to Saturday.

STAPHA—AFRICAN PSYCHIC
Reuniting Loved Ones • Stopping Divorce
Removing Bad Spirits • Success in Business
Healing Protection
RESULTS GUARANTEED
403-802-0367

QUICK, EASY, INEXPENSIVE
DIVORCE
LOWEST PRICES IN CALGARY From $399
10 years as family mediators and out-of court divorce specialists
Call now 403-808-8311
divorceeasy499@yahoo.ca

Apartment Finder

To advertise contact Warren Smith at 403-539-4948

9100 BONAVENTURE DR.
CALGARY, AB
403•774•7074
One Bedrooms from $949
Two Bedrooms from $1074
FREE MONTH'S RENT
• Located in the residential area of Acadia
• Short drive to downtown
• Family friendly low-rise with playground & beautiful courtyard
• Adult-only high-rise
CAP REIT

Ch-ch-ch-chat all winter. Amazing phones now under $100.

Palm® Pre™ smartphone

$99.95 with a $50 voice and data plan (min. 500MB) on a 2-yr. term[1] ($599.95 no term)

Samsung Galaxy™ smartphone with Google™

$99.95 with a $50 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[1] ($449.95 no term)

Nokia 2730

$29.95 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($119.95 no term)

BlackBerry® Curve™ 8330 smartphone

$0 with a $40 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[3] ($549.95 no term)

LG Rumour2™

$0 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($269.95 no term)

Samsung Vice™

$0 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($249.95 no term)

BONUS: For a limited time, enjoy $50 off accessories when you purchase any phone from Bell.[4]

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE (662453) • bell.ca

Bell savings just got better

Available at the following Bell stores:

BANFF
- Cascade Plaza

CALGARY
- 216 Saddletowne Circle
- 509 – 2nd St. S.W.
- 1002 – 17th Ave. S.W.
- 10603 – 107th Ave.
- 4801 Westwinds Dr.
- 9650 Harvest Hills Blvd. N.E.
- Beacon Hill Centre
- Chinook Centre
- Crowfoot Crossing
- Deer Valley Shopping Centre
- Deerfoot Meadows
- Deerfoot Outlet Mall
- Eaton Centre
- Forest Lawn Shopping Centre
- Market Mall
- Marlborough Mall – kiosk
- North Hill Shopping Centre – kiosk
- Northland Village
- Shawnessy Village
- Southcentre Mall
- Southcentre Mall – kiosk
- Southpointe Shopping Centre
- South Trail Crossing
- Sunridge Mall
- Westbrook Mall

CANMORE
- 105 – 802 Bow Valley Trail

EDMONTON
- 3918 White Mud & 17th St.
- 6143 – 28th Ave.
- 9774 – 170th St.
- 10157 – 101 St.
- 10603 – 107th Ave.
- 17551 – 100th Ave.
- 12804 – 82nd St.
- 14808 Stony Plain Rd.
- 18563 Stony Plain Rd.
- Abbottsfield Shoppers Mall
- Bonnie Doon
- Capilano Mall
- Edmonton City Centre
- Edmonton City Centre – kiosk II
- Kingsway Garden Mall
- Londonderry Mall
- Mill Woods Town Centre
- Northgate Centre
- Northgate Centre – kiosk
- Sherwood Park Mall
- South Edmonton Common
- South Park Centre
- Southgate Mall – kiosk
- St. Albert Centre
- St. Albert Trail at 137 Ave.
- West Edmonton Mall
- Westmount Centre
- Whyte Avenue at 107 St.

FORT MCMURRAY
- 19 Riedel St.
- Peter Pond Shopping Centre

GRANDE PRAIRIE
- Prairie Mall

LEDUC
- 4916 – 50th Ave.

LETHBRIDGE
- Park Place
- Smart Centers Lethbridge

LLOYDMINSTER
- Lloyd Mall

MEDICINE HAT
- 1221 Kingsway Ave. SE
- Carry Drive Plaza
- Medicine Hat Mall

PEACE RIVER
- 10032 – 100th St.

RED DEER
- Bower Place Shopping Centre
- Parkland Mall

ROCKY VIEW
- Crossiron Mills Mall

SPRUCE GROVE
- Creekside Centre

ST-ALBERT
- 460 – 140 St-Albert Rd.

WHITECOURT
- 3301 – 37th Ave.

Offer ends December 31, 2009. Available with compatible devices within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility (EVDO/HSPA/HSPA+) where technology permits. HSPA/HSPA+ not available everywhere. One-time device activation ($35) fee applies. Paper bill service charge ($2/mo.) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. **(1)** With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $50/mo. You must keep a min. $50/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. **(2)** With new activation on a post-paid voice plan. **(3)** With new activation on a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $40/mo. You must keep a min. $40/mo. post-paid voice and data plan for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. **(4)** With a new activation on a 3-yr. term on a post-paid voice plan. Rebate applies in-store before taxes on accessories. Palm and Pre are among the trademarks or registered trademarks owned by or licensed to Palm, Inc. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Nokia is a registered trademark of Nokia Corporation. Rumour2 is a trademark of LG Electronics Inc. Samsung Galaxy and Samsung Vice are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Google and Android are trademarks of Google, Inc.

Bookmaker takings bets on Woods' divorce settlement

If Tiger Woods and his Swedish wife get divorced, Elin Nordegren won't be the only one collecting on the settlement. British bookmaker William Hill is taking bets on just how much Nordegren will get if she decides to divorce Woods. Bettors can get 25-1 odds that Nordegren will receive more than half a billion dollars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Bombers coach arrested, fired

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers have fired head coach Mike Kelly after one turbulent season. Bombers board chairman Ken Hildahl made the announcement Thursday night, the same day Kelly was arrested in Pennsylvania in an alleged domestic dispute. Police in Bridgeport, Pa., said they arrested Kelly after responding to a domestic disturbance at his home Thursday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Bengals' Henry dies from injuries

NFL Chris Henry was no stranger to trouble.

Indeed, his multiple arrests during a five-year NFL career were among the factors prompting the league to toughen its personal conduct policy.

But to hear his teammates tell it — even the team's owner — the Cincinnati Bengals receiver was determined to leave behind his troubled past and move ahead toward a bright future.

Chris Henry

Tragically, his efforts were cut short when he died from injuries in what police said was a domestic dispute with his fiancée.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police said the 26-year-old Henry died early Thursday, less than 18 hours after he fell off of the back of a pick-up truck on a curvy residential street about eight miles northwest of downtown Charlotte.

The cause of death was not immediately released.

Henry was away from the Bengals after suffering a season-ending broken forearm in a game last month.

"We knew him in a different way than his public persona," Bengals owner Mike Brown said. "He had worked through the troubles in his life and had finally seemingly reached the point where everything was going to blossom. And he was going to have the future we all wanted for him." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kiprusoff holds off Kings' attack

NHL

Kings 1 Flames 2

AT

Miikka Kiprusoff made 34 saves and Dion Phaneuf scored with less than a second to go in the first for Calgary as the Flames hung on to beat the Western Conference-leading Los Angeles Kings 2-1.

With 2.9 seconds remaining in the first, Olli Jokinen outduelled Anze Kopitar off the faceoff and drew the puck back to Jarome Iginla on the power play. The Flames captain quickly slid the puck back to Phaneuf at the blue-line, who one-timed a slapshot past Kings goaltender Jonathan Quick.

After video review, the goal stood as Phaneuf's seventh of the season and first in 20 games.

After a scoreless second period, Nigel Dawes made it 2-0 at 1:02 of the third. Kings defenceman Alex Martinez had his clearing attempt intercepted and the Flames eventually worked the puck in deep to Daymond Langkow, who set up Dawes for a one-timer.

Dawes' 10th goal of the season tied him with Rene Bourque and Daymond Langkow for second on the team.

Corey Elkins scored his first NHL goal for Los Angeles (22-12-3) at 11:06 of the third to bring the Kings to within one.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Los Angeles King Justin Williams is knocked to the ice by Calgary Flame Curtis Glencross Thursday.

Injuries don't deter Canadian ski team

The Canadian ski team was rocked again Thursday as another Olympic medal hopeful headed to hospital. But the rest of the team refuses to be bundled in bubble wrap in the leadup to the Games.

Kelly VanderBeek tore up her knee in a fall during World Cup downhill training at Val d'Isere, France. The 26-year-old is the third Canadian this week and the fourth in the last month to fall out of Olympic contention through injury.

VanderBeek became the second Canadian woman in as many days hurt at Val d'Isere, prompting the coaching staff at an evening team meeting to give the remaining skiers the option of skipping this weekend's races and returning home.

There was no hesitation. The women wanted to stay and race.

VanderBeek, who has a suspected torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee, attended the meeting. She told her teammates "I know you have what it takes. I know you guys can rocket."

The injuries to VanderBeek, world downhill champion John Kucera, giant slalom specialist Jean-Philippe Roy and up-and-comer Larisa Yurkiw are a hammer blow to a ski team that had set a goal of three medals at the Olympics.

"I just can't sleep anymore," said Max Gartner, Alpine Canada's chief athletics officer. "It's awful."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Injured Canadian skiers

- John Kucera — The reigning world champion in downhill broke his leg in a Nov. 29 super-giant slalom race.
- Jean-Philippe Roy — The giant slalom specialist ripped up his knee Sunday in a World Cup race at Val d'Isere.
- Larisa Yurkiw — Suffered a knee injury Wednesday in downhill training at Val d'Isere.
- Kelly VanderBeek — Suspected torn ACL in left knee after fall Thursday in training at Val d'Isere.

Sports in brief

FIGHTING Vancouver city council has approved a two-year trial period for mixed martial arts, opening the door for an Ultimate Fighting Championship show in the city as soon as next summer. Councillors voted six to three Thursday to allow Vancouver to regulate and sanction the combat sport, which is expected to generate millions of dollars for the local economy.

WOODS Michael Phelps expressed sympathy for Tiger Woods and his family Thursday because of the scrutiny resulting from the golfer's admitted infidelity. "He's going through a hard time right now I assume — I've no idea what he is going through — but it can't be easy, I just wish him the best for himself and his family," said Phelps, who is in Manchester, England, for the "Duel in the Pool" swim meet. "I'd be the first to admit I've made a lot of mistakes both in and out of the pool."

WORLD CUP Brazil will spend $280 million US to renovate Maracana Stadium, closing the historic venue next year to spruce up the centrepiece of the 2014 World Cup. Opened for the 1950 World Cup, Maracana is expected to be reopened in December 2012.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for the most recent Sports updates on your smartphone.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

VERMONT CASTINGS Signature SERIES

A Great gift for anyone in the household

OVERSTOCKED & BLOWOUT PRICES

BRING THIS AD IN FOR A

FREE BBQ TOOL SET

WITH YOUR PURCHASE!

*ON SELECT MODELS. SEE IN-STORE FOR DETAILS.

Trail Appliances
Appliances and more!

Gift cards available!

SOUTH
6880 - 11 St S.E.
403.253.5442

NORTH
2745 - 29 St N.E.
403.250.2818

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED FOR 35 YEARS

Men's tennis tournament returns to Atlanta

The men's tennis tour is returning to Atlanta, putting a hard-court tournament in the city that will be played July 17-25, 2010, and start off the U.S. Open Series. The ATP tour bought the sanctioning rights to the Indianapolis tournament that has been held in July but recently had attendance and sponsorship issues. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's hidden treasures

Many of the country's top athletes are hardly household names

"The mystery is why most of the candidates that make it to the final ballot for consideration as Canada's athlete of the year are anonymous to most people in this country."

Every time the Lou Marsh Award pops up all Canadian sports fans get an eye-opener. There's a ton of talent out there.

The mystery is why most of the candidates that make it to the final ballot for consideration as Canada's athlete of the year are anonymous to most people in this country.

This year, Sidney Crosby, the brilliant captain of the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins, captured the prize named after the late Toronto Star sports editor — an award that dates back to 1936 and whose recipients have included Wayne Gretzky, Barabara Ann Scott, Catriona Le May Doan and Mike Weir.

For Crosby it's a second victory, and well-deserved, considering he's the best Canadian hockey player alive and led his team to arguably the most difficult championship to capture in North American professional sport. Just about everybody knows Sid the Kid's name.

The same is true of Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns, a perennial finalist because he's the best playmaker in big-time basketball.

But that's where the familiarity gets fuzzy.

It's a revelation to discover that Canada also boasts sluggers like Jason Bay and Justin Morneau, each capable of more than 100 RBIs in Major League Baseball. Or that Daniel Nestor, the best doubles player in tennis, hails from north of the border.

If you dig deeper you understand that world champions like Christine Nesbitt of speedskating, John Kucera of alpine skiing, Jasey Jay Anderson of snowboarding and Alexandre Bilodeau of freestyle skiing also bleed red and white.

This is to say nothing of swimmer Ryan Cochrane, who won two medals at the world aquatics championships, or Priscilla Lopes-Schliep, a hurdler who captured silver at the world track and field summit.

They are Canadians close to the pinnacle of the most contested sports on the face of the Earth.

The names already mentioned barely scratch the surface.

There are golfers, mixed martial artists, figure skaters and football players who also deserve consideration.

There are so many jewels of Canadian sport we have yet to fully appreciate.

Maybe we should make the Lou Marsh Award more than a one-day deliberation that seems so fleeting.

Perhaps we should make it more inclusive and spark a national celebration, so that all Canadians might uncover our hidden treasures of sport.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

NFL Colts stay perfect

JOHN RAOUX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indianapolis Colts tight end Dallas Clark gets hit by Jacksonville Jaguars cornerback Tyron Brackenridge but still gets into the end zone to score a third-quarter touchdown on Thursday night. The Colts beat the Jaguars 35-31 to improve to 14-0 for the first time in franchise history.

Vancouver opens door to UFC

JEFF HODSON
Metro Canada

The Ultimate Fighting Championship is moving ahead with plans to hold a major 'numbered' event in Vancouver this summer, a UFC official confirmed Thursday after city council gave approval for professional mixed martial arts.

Council voted 6-3 in favour of sanctioning MMA contests on a two-year pilot basis.

A card is to be held at GM Place and could generate up to $4.7 million in spin-off economic benefits.

"We have a lot of fans here and the sport is very popular here," said Lawrence Epstein, a Las Vegas-based executive vice president of UFC. "I think you could bet on seeing more than one event in two years in Vancouver."

UFC president Dana White, who was not at council, tweeted his excitement.

"Another one down!" White posted on Twitter. "Thanks to everyone in Vancouver who helped. See you in 2010."

Currently, MMA is in a legal grey area.

Prizefights — with the exception of boxing — are banned under the Criminal Code of Canada. This is the reason that MMA is banned in Ontario.

Conservative MP James Moore, who urged council to embrace MMA "with both hands," said the federal government has no problem with MMA.

The Tories introduced Bill C-31 in May (which is still in first reading) to change the CCC's dated language around the sport.

As well, a letter to the city from B.C.'s Attorney General Mike de Jong, gave tacit support for the sport.

CANADA OLYMPIC PARK
ski & snowboard PROGRAMS
YOUTH Ages 6-12 • 13-15
FROM $50
CANADA OLYMPIC PARK
winSPORT CANADA
403.247.5452
www.winsportcanada.ca

Big yakkers yak for free.*
yak Unlimited Canada & USA
ONLY $13.46* MONTH
Unlimited long distance for your home phone or cell
Sign up now!
Get one month FREE*
Quote promo code: 1-2-3-FREE
Home Phone | Long Distance | High Speed Internet | Long Distance Cell | Travel Cards | Yak Paks
Call 1-866-888-6687 yak.ca
Proudly Canadian Customer Service
yak We want to be your phone company.
*Terms of service apply. Average rate over four months of $17.95 per month with fourth month free. Monthly rate of $17.95 plus applicable taxes each month thereafter. Customers must sign up for Yak Unlimited with credit card only. One promotional offer per account. One time use only. Not redeemable with any other offers or discounts or for any other services. Offer available until December 31, 2009. For full terms and conditions, visit http://winwithyak.yak.ca/terms/free_month.

CROSSROADS FURNITURE MART

MULTI MILLION $ FURNITURE

LIQUIDATION

LIMITED QUANTITIES, LIMITED TIME

3 pc Leather Sofa Set
Sofa, Loveseat & Chair.
$1499

3 pc Sofa Set
Sofa, Loveseat & Chair.
$1199

7 pc Bedroom Set
Queen Bed, Dresser, Mirror Chest & 1 Night Stand.
Also available in Black & White.
$1299

5 pc Counter Height Dinning Set
Table & 4 Stools.
$499

Sofa Bed
Available in various colours.
$189.99

5 pc Glass Top Dinning Set
Table & 4 Chairs.
$699

OUR SELECTION WILL AMAZE YOU!!

OVER 90,000 SQ FEET OF SHOWROOM

BRANDS FROM ASHLEY FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC. · aspenhome · AICO AMINI INNOVATION. CORP. · MAGNUSSEN HOME · Serta

2222 - 16th Ave NE Calgary AB 403-250-6660

Hours: MON-FRI 10am - 8:30pm SAT 10am - 7pm SUN 11am - 6pm

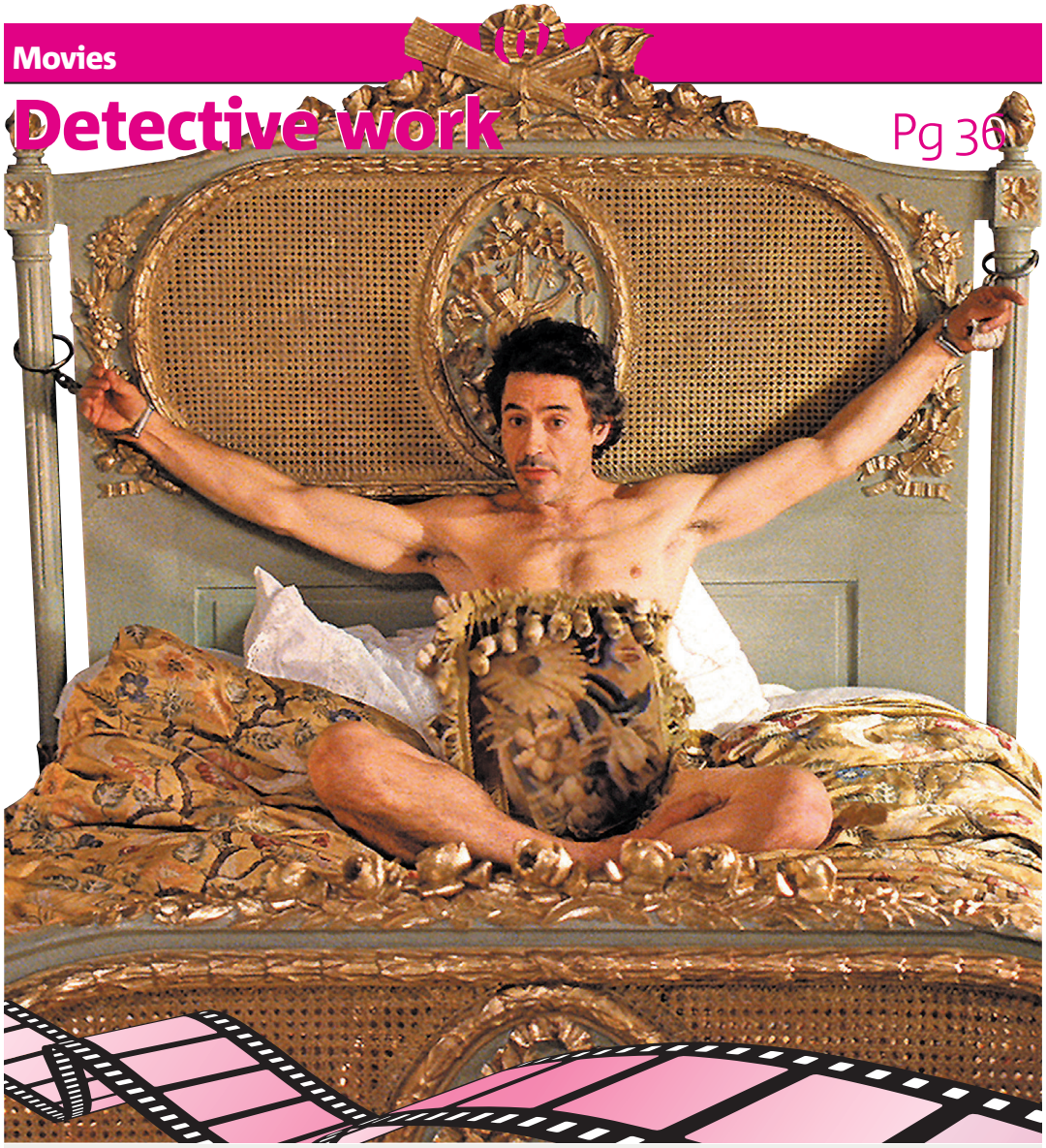
Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

Movies&Entertainment

Movies

Detective work

Pg 36



Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law team up for the most recent film version detailing the antics of famous detective Sherlock Holmes. For his part, Downey Jr. says he went back to historical source material to convey an accurate portrayal.

Movies Pg 37

Avatar is a truly immersive experience, says reviewer.

Music Pg 44

Jackson's guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has a new album.

Television Pg 48

TV set decorators talk festive trinkets and knickknacks.

At a glance
Avatar ●●●●½, Did You Hear About The Morgans ●½, New York I Love You ●●, Bad Lieutenant ●●●●●

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Downey in the groove for Sherlock

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Robert Downey Jr. has an admittedly difficult history with London. "I was here 20 years ago and the food sucked," he says, though he's quick to add, "I kind of sucked 20 years ago. Far be it from me to say what was good when and where. I barely remember any of it." But with his new Sherlock Holmes set for release next week, he's feeling better about all things British.

In bringing a new version of the famous detective to the screen, Downey was expecting more of the pressure of history. "It's funny.

Sherlock Holmes would be the one you'd think has the most onus on it," he says of the characters he's played. But during filming, he insists he got the distinct feeling they were doing everything right. "Sometimes you just feel like you're in the right groove, and you feel the history and the legacy of something," he says. "Sometimes you just feel like you're being silently approved of from some other place and time."

Sherlock Holmes hits theatres next week

Robert Downey Jr. couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law, he says.

A key element in rounding out Holmes was finding a Watson he worked well with, and Downey insists he couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law. "I'm used to people saying, 'Well you and so-and-so who's female have this great chemistry,'" Downey says. "They're talking about Jude and I like we should be doing romantic comedies together."

While Downey's Holmes might not be something audiences necessarily find familiar, the actor insists it's a more accurate portrayal.

"We were reinterpreting that character by actually going back to the source material — what he looked like, how he behaved, that he was a martial artist," Downey says.

While talk of martial arts and fighting has several Hollywood observers nervous, it was the bare-knuckle boxing scene that sealed the deal for Downey.

"By the time we were done shooting that scene, I felt like we really had a handle on the movie," he says.

"Not because we finally top-lit me and I showed my rippling abs and all that self-important garbage, but because it was a really bold thing and it could've gone really poorly, in which case the rest of the movie is trying to recover from a bad Guy Ritchie idea. But it was literally perfect, and I think it set the tone."

Looking forward, Downey is more than happy to be tied up with a successful pair of franchises. "Ideally, the Iron Man thing will pan out another time or two, a bit of Avengers going on. I have a feeling Sherlock is going to make a comeback. I think it's going to be well-received and do business."

But he admits he sees himself doing more than just acting. "I'd just like to parlay doing a bit of that stuff into making movies or doing stuff outside the realm of directly having to make faces for cash and chicken all the time."

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Basterds, Precious, Up in the Air lead SAG Awards noms

AWARDS Up in the Air, Precious and Inglourious Basterds led the Screen Actors Guild Awards with three nominations each Thursday, among them honours for George Clooney, Diane Kruger and Mo'Nique.

The Second World War rewrite Inglourious Basterds and the Harlem story Precious: Based on the Novel Push By Sapphire are competing for the guild's overall cast prize, along with the 1960s British drama An Education, the Iraq War tale The Hurt Locker and the musical Nine.

The corporate-downsizing tale Up in the Air was shut out of that category but scored a lead-actor nomination for Clooney as a frequent-flyer whiz and two supporting-actress slots, for Vera Farmiga as his new love and Anna Kendrick as his new protege.

The film's Canadian-born director, Jason Reitman, was not nominated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

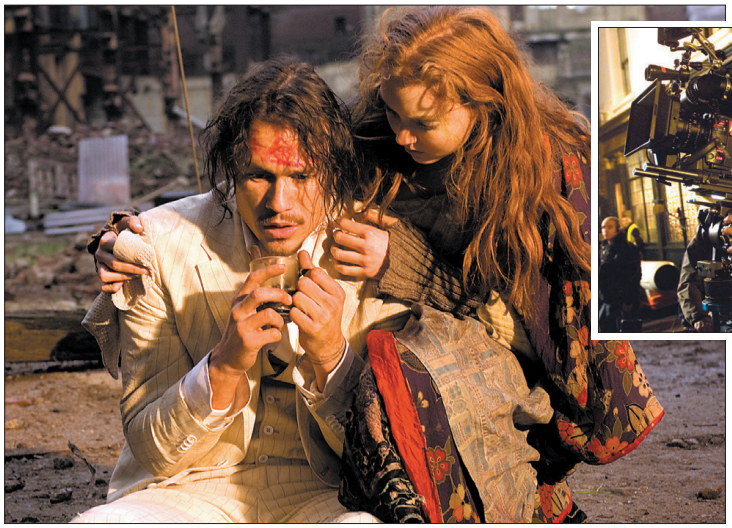
Terry Gilliam's homage to Heath Ledger

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus is a flight of fancy that was very nearly grounded in mid production. The untimely death of star Heath Ledger in January 2008 almost put the brakes on the film until Terry Gilliam had an idea: Why not continue filming with three of the late actor's friends taking his place?

"I just started calling friends of Heath," Gilliam said. "It's as simple as that. Johnny (Depp), Colin (Farrell) and Jude (Law) turned up. It was important that they were friends, because I wanted to keep it in the family. I wanted people who were close to him because, as Colin said when he was doing his part, he was channelling Heath part of the time, so Heath was very much still alive in some sense.

"I didn't know whether this would work until I got back to London. We were working on autopilot. Working because that's what we decided to do and we got back to London and I showed the first cut to the post-sound guy, who hadn't been involved in the process, and he just assumed it was written that way. I thought, 'It works.'"



Heath Ledger's untimely death almost halted production of Terry Gilliam's, inset, film The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus — that is until Ledger's friends stepped in.

Co-star Christopher Plummer says he thinks it works better than the original script.

"The audience needs to be rejuvenated at the eleventh hour and they are by the presence of the three guys," he said. "I think Heath would have thoroughly approved of that and probably have been relieved not to go, 'OK fellas, it's time I had a break.'"

One of Heath's co-stars, however, had a harder time accepting the loss and the replacements. Lily Cole says she cried on the first day of shooting without Ledger, but soon realized that by stepping in Depp, Farrell and Law were doing a "brave and lovely thing" to honor the late actor.

Gilliam agrees, viewing the finished film as homage to Ledger. A credit where the director's name usually sits is a tribute to the late actor and the respect he earned.

"Contractually, it was supposed to be a Terry Gilliam Film," he said. "That's what the lawyers said, but I said, 'No way it's going to be that. It's going to be a film from Heath Ledger and friends.' The cast sat around one night and that idea came up and I said, 'This is it. Perfect. That's how we do it.'"

A plethora of best song options for this year's Oscars
Sixty-three songs from eligible feature-length motion pictures are contending for nominations in the Original Song category for the 82nd Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday. DEADLINE.COM

Morgans a forgettable rom-com

It's probably best that you don't listen to anything you hear about this movie

Did You Hear About The Morgans
Director: Marc Lawrence
Stars: Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker, Sam Eliot
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Hugh Grant plays a befuddled British lawyer and Sarah Jessica Parker plays a wealthy New Yorker in Did You Hear About The Morgans.

In general Hollywood romantic comedies are unbelievable star vehicles with reheated plotlines that are predictable from the first scene.

Expectations have to be lowered for most movies of this type because rom-com audiences simply don't want deviations in the established formula. However, from time to time something like Did You Hear About The Morgans comes along that is so ludicrous and clichéd that even people who enjoy these sorts of movies have to admit it's a failure.

Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker star as an estranged married couple and will surprise no one by appearing as a befuddled British lawyer and wealthy go-getter New Yorker respectively.

One night, while trying to rebuild their bonds, they somehow witness a murder and end up in the witness protection program.

The couple are sent to Wyoming to stay with a cute country cop husband and wife team played by Sam Eliot and Mary Steenburgen.

Do you think there's a chance that this troubled big city couple might work out their marital woes as they learn love simple country life?

The movie is a simplistic and inoffensive time waster and for some that will be enough.

However, anyone whose brain is remotely active while watching the film is sure to be put off by a script so tired that it actually features a scene in which Steenburgen admits that her previous marriage squabbles were solved when her cowboy husband bought her a gun and a cow … you know, just like real country folk.

There's no semblance of reality here, it's a universe governed by clichés. While it's always nice to see Grant, Parker, Eliot, and Steenburgen trot out their established screen personas for laughs, no good will the audience has for the cast could possibly overcome the laundry list of problems with the halfhearted screenplay and ham-fisted direction. If anyone asks, you haven't heard anything about the Morgans and want nothing to do with them.

• For a Did You Hear About The Morgans trailer, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Our reviewer describes James Cameron's much-anticipated film Avatar, staring Sam Worthington, as mesmerizing.

Avatar well worth the wait

Avatar
Director: James Cameron
Stars: Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Giovani Ribisi
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The best word to describe watching James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar is, overwhelming. The tech-savvy director has created a truly immersive experience, utilizing 3-D and motion capture technology to create the brand-new, vibrant world of Pandora, and its slender, yellow-eyed, blue-skinned inhabitants, the Na'vi.

The smartest thing Cameron does is keep the story simple. It's something we've seen before: A native population stands in the way of the goals of an invading force — in this case, humans led by a greedy corporate honcho (Giovani Ribisi) and a marine colonel (Stephen Lang) displaying Apocalypse Now levels of menace.

As Sam Worthington's Jake is sent, via a human/Na'vi hybrid body (or avatar), to infiltrate the Na'vi, he falls in love with one of their own (Zoe Saldana) and takes their side.

With an unchallenging story, Cameron leaves plenty of room for the technical splendor to do the heavy lifting, and he strikes a great balance.

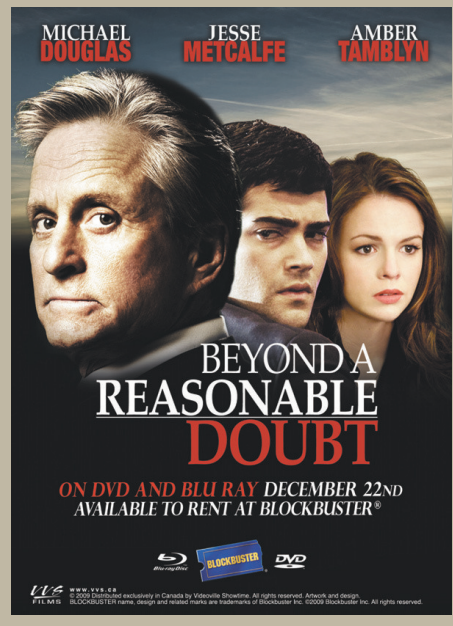
The film isn't perfect, of course. Some of the exchanges and declarations are rather clunky, as dialogue was never really Cameron's strong suit.

And there are several less-than-subtle criticisms of Bush administration foreign policy — something that apparently can happen when it takes five years to complete a film.

But the overall effect is mesmerizing and well worth the wait.

• For an Avatar trailer, photos, and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

YOU COULD
WIN
1 OF 10 COPIES OF BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT ON DVD!



ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN! metronews.ca

No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 20, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

metro

Daryl Hannah says no to plastic cups

Daryl Hannah wants everyone to ditch plastic cups. The 49-year-old actress — who is a long-time environmental activist and has been arrested several times — said she wants the world to become more aware of the environment. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Reel Time

Hudson sounds off in film Nine

Movie **feature**

AARTI VIRANI
Metro World News

The last time we were treated to the vocal stylings of Kate Hudson — really more of a warbled rendition of You're So Vain in 2003's How To Lose A Guy in 10 Days — we didn't necessarily want more. But the actress executes an impressive double play as she shimmies and croons (soulfully, might we add) in Rob Marshall's latest film, Nine.

As one of the seven big-name beauties gracing Marshall's epic musical about the mid-life crisis of a prolific 1960s Italian film director, Guido Contini (Daniel Day-Lewis), Hudson shares the limelight with a constellation of muses: Nicole Kidman, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Judi Dench, Stacy (Fergie) Ferguson and Sophia Loren. She plays Stephanie, a sultry American, Vogue journalist, smitten with all things Italian — Contini included.

But even though Hudson certainly exudes mystique during her catchy, pop-tinged number, Cinema Italiano, it didn't necessarily come naturally.

"I've come out of a contemporary jazz background but there are no flexed feet or pirouettes here," she admits. "It's a very difficult song to sing — fast, articulate and belty."

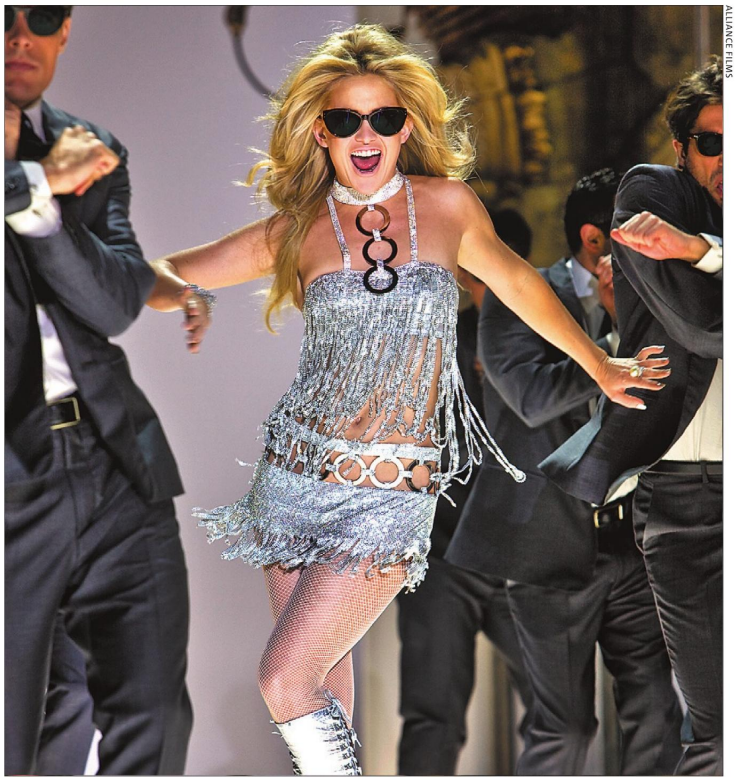
Curtain calling

While growing up in Colorado, Hudson spent many an afternoon re-enacting a slew of musicals, including Meet Me in St. Louis, Bye Bye Birdie, and her all-time favorite, Annie.

"I didn't want to be Annie as much as I wanted to play Annie," she says. As to whether she's passed the performer genes on to her six-year-old son, Ryder, she's not sure, though he did insist on dressing up as a one-man Mariachi band this past Halloween.

A day's work

- When describing a scene where her character unabashedly fawns over Guido at a bar, Hudson admits it wasn't love at first sight. "We got to get drunk. We were laughing, with stools flying all over the place. I didn't get the agonized Guido," she shares, almost relieved.



ALLIANCE FILMS

Kate Hudson sings and dances alongside Daniel Day-Lewis in Nine.

"★★★★ EXTRAORDINARY." ROGER EBERT
"YOU'RE MEANT TO CHEER. AND YOU WILL." TIME RICHARD CORLISS

JAMES CAMERON'S AVATAR
EVERYWHERE & EVERYWAY
2D | real D 3D | DIGITAL 3D | IMAX 3D
PG VIOLENCE, NOT RECOMMENDED FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
STARTS TODAY! Check directory or log onto www.cineplex.com, www.empiretheatres.com, www.landmarkcinemas.com or www.tribute.ca for locations and showtimes

6 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS including BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR
BEST ACTOR George Clooney | BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS Vera Farmiga | BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS Anna Kendrick | BEST SCREENPLAY Jason Reitman and Sheldon Turner
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES ★★★★ USA TODAY ★★★★ People ★★★★ NEW YORK POST ★★★★ The Washington Post ★★★★ US ★★★★ San Francisco Chronicle ★★★★ The Philadelphia Inquirer ★★★★
WINNER! WASHINGTON DC AREA FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION BEST FILM
BEST ACTOR George Clooney | BEST SCREENPLAY, ADAPTED
"THE MOVIE OF THE YEAR, THE MOVIE OF THE MOMENT." GQ
WINNER! BEST PICTURE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
BEST ACTOR George Clooney | BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS Anna Kendrick | BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY Jason Reitman and Sheldon Turner

George Clooney
UP IN THE AIR
From the Director of "Juno"
14A COARSE LANGUAGE
TheUpInTheAirMovie.com
Copyright © 2009 DW STUDIOS L.L.C. and COLD SPRING PICTURES. All Rights Reserved.
EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT NOW PLAYING!
CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY FOR SHOWTIMES
CINEPLEX ENTERTAINMENT SCOTIABANK

No Wild Hogs 2
Disney has cancelled plans for Wild Hogs 2: Bachelor Ride, a sequel to 2007's unlikely hit. It was to start shooting next year with John Travolta, Tim Allen, Martin Lawrence and William H Macy all in negotiations to reprise their roles. **IMDB.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Lieutenant unusual

Bad Lieutenant: Port **of Call New Orleans**
Director: Werner Herzog
Stars: Nicolas Cage
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●●

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes star in Bad Lieutenant.

The big screen marriage of Hollywood heavyweight Nicolas Cage and German arthouse eccentric Werner Herzog may seem odd on paper, but the final product is even odder, a joyous wallow in pulp excess that stands alone.

Borrowing part of the name and theme of Abel Ferrara's bizarro 1992 existential exploitation film (that boasted the most unhinged and hair raising of Harvey Keitel's performances), Herzog's Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans is hypnotic, violent and occasionally, laugh out loud hilarious.

Cage stars as Lt. Terence McDonagh, a cop who already treads the line of corruption and bad taste until a horrific drug-related massacre — and a bout of agonizing back pain — sends him spiraling into a vortex of substance-soaked self medication and generally hideous, antisocial behavior.

Although on the surface, Bad Lieutenant may seem like Herzog lite, the very fact that film is trying to pass itself off as something even marginally mainstream makes it perhaps the most offbeat work in the director's oeuvre.

The movie is certainly filled with that meditative eeriness, that tongue-in-cheek depravity and uncomfortable beauty that defines the best of Herzog (think Aguirre: The Wrath of God or Woyzeck) but watching the filmmaker trying to squeeze those sensibilities into a conventional thriller model is nothing short of dizzying and will no doubt prove trying to tamer viewers.

By the time Herzog utilizes his much discussed iguana cam, you're either going to be in love with the film or you'll bolt for the exits in bewilderment.

Those cynical cineastes who have written off Cage as a blockbuster baiting hack need to go back into the vaults and revisit the actors defining, early work. Fare like Vampire's Kiss, David Lynch's Wild at Heart and Raising Arizona showed that when a filmmaker gives Cage the right material, and stands well back, he can burn the screen up with operatic aplomb, riffing maniacally like a cacophonic jazzman but always maintaining a kind of wounded emotional core.

That's the Cage we get here, and it's easily his best turn since Adaptation. Sweaty, swampy, lurid and lively, Bad Lieutenant is the most deliciously unusual film of 2009.

New York doesn't succeed like Paris

New York, **I Love You**
Director: Brett Ratner, Joshua Marston, Mira Nair and others
Stars: Ethan Hawke, Natalie Portman, Julie Christie
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Drea de Matteo stars in a segment of New York, I Love You.

REVIEW In 2006, filmgoers were charmed by Paris Je T'aime, an anthology film comprised of short love letters to Paris by 21 different filmmakers. The project was surprisingly consistent for a film of it's kind and proved to be a minor hit.

Three years later, a few producers have tried to repeat the trick with New York, I Love You. The plan was to apply the same format to New York and it should have worked. But, unfortunately the roster of filmmakers hired for this omnibus is not nearly as impressive as the previous lineup. There are a few nice shorts, but overall the film is quite bland and predictable.

Hollywood hack Brett Ratner (Rush Hour) surprisingly directed the funniest segment about a teenager who inadvertently takes James Caan's disabled daughter to his prom. Maria Full Of Grace director Joshua Marston also contributed an amazing segment featuring Cloris Leachman and Eli Wallach as a sweetly co-dependent bickering old couple. But sadly, the other shorts fall flat. While Paris Je T'aime succeeded on the strength of the directors, New York, I Love You succeeds mainly because of its all star cast that includes Ethan Hawke, John Hurt, Natalie Portman, Julie Christie, and others.

Anthology movies are always inconsistent. There has never been a perfect one made, so judging them depends entirely on the number of hits vs. the number of misses and New York, I Love You fails more than it succeeds.

Thor gets more stars

Kenneth Branagh's Thor cast just can't stop growing — or becoming more interesting with every new addition. The latest making the trip to Asgard is Rene Russo, who is set to play Frigga, the wife of Norse god Odin. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Chipmunks bring back some high-pitched fun

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Zachary Levi has gone from Chuck to Chipmunk.

The 29-year old actor who plays the titular electronics store clerk-turned-spy in TV's Chuck is honored to become guardian of the world's most famous rock 'n' roll rodents in next week's release, Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel.

"I was about eight when I was watching them in the Eighties," said Levi of the decades-old characters during a recent interview in Los Angeles. "And no matter how they've changed in their look and their medium — crude animation in the '80s to now — they're still the same guys. Kids will love them."

And children have definitely loved Alvin & The Chipmunks ever since they made their debut on a Minneapolis radio station singing The Chipmunk Song back in 1958. Further, their popularity has only spread as evidenced by the popularity of their 2007 full-length film debut, which earned over $350 million globally.

"Look, there's nothing cuter than a couple of chipmunks singing songs," explained Levi. "(Producers) Ross (Bagdasarian) and Janice (Karman) have taken that torch and maintained the innocence and the purity and the heart that the Chipmunks have always had. That's what I think keeps people with it."

Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel opens next week.

In the latest cinematic installment of the franchise, Levi is entrusted to the singing trio when their proper guardian Dave (Jason Lee) is hospitalized at the expense of Alvin's wild on-stage antics. Ordered to send the chipmunks to school, Levi's bumbling Toby finds the miniature munks a handful — especially once they become smitten with their furry female counterparts, the Chipettes.

"It is (a little freaky) but it's so cool," said Levi of the Chipettes' high-pitched versions of contemporary pop songs. "(The producers) always make it relevant to wherever they need to be. They did that in the '50s; they do it now so it's cool."

While Levi added the cover of hit single Hot N Cold may have stood out, it was a variation of another Katy Perry song that the jokester would've preferred to hear.

"I was surprised they didn't have I Kissed a Squirrel (And I Liked It), but whatever, I wasn't in charge of the music."

C.R.A.Z.Y. director tackles Brit royalty

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

When he was attending this year's Toronto International Film Festival with his film, The Young Victoria — an intimate account of the iconic British monarch's early years on the throne — Jean Marc Vallee's hair was considerably shorter than it was when he was in Toronto for his Genie-winning C.R.A.Z.Y.

This tonsorial disparity speaks to the differences between the two films: Where C.R.A.Z.Y.'s amped-up autobiographical narrative gave the Montreal-based filmmaker licence to let it all hang out, The Young Victoria's subject matter called for a more pared-down approach.

"Normally, period pieces are not my cup of tea," explains Vallee, who took several years to decide how to follow up the critical and commercial success of C.R.A.Z.Y.

"But Julian Fellowes' script was beautiful: He has such a rare way of writing about this world. I felt like I could spend the next two years of my life trying to get it onscreen."

Vallee admits that The Young Victoria, which hits theatres next week, is a less personal project than C.R.A.Z.Y., and that he struggled for a while with striking a balance between individual vision and the demands of the costume-drama genre.

A scene for The Young Victoria, directed by Jean Marc Vallee.

"On the credits, it doesn't say (that this is) 'a film by (Jean-Marc Vallee) … it says 'directed by.' What I mean is that I'm not the only one making creative decisions. I had to learn how to work in that sort of new environment. I wanted my voice to be in there, but it wasn't the only one."

Hathaway in car crash

Anne Hathaway was involved in a traffic collision in Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon. The 27-year-old movie beauty was sitting on the passenger seat of a car driven by her actor boyfriend, Adam Shulman, when the vehicle collided with a cyclist. ACESHOWBIZ.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

James Cameron is not the only perfectionist in the film industry

InFocus

Richard Crouse
mrchaos33@hotmail.com

In the gap between James Cameron's last theatrical feature, Titanic, and his new film, Avatar (in theatres this weekend) Clint Eastwood directed 11 movies, Michael Bay made six and even Uwe Boll, a director so reviled an online petition demands he stop making films, has made 15 in the time it took Cameron to make just one.

So what's the hold up?

Some suggest Cameron takes so long between gigs because his commitment to his projects is so intense he wants to be sure he is on the right track before camera starts to roll.

"I want you to know one thing," he allegedly told one producer, "once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."

Also, Cameron isn't bound by the same considerations as most directors.

He wrote the script for Avatar in 1994 and was prepared to wait until special effects technology caught up with his vision.

The luxury of having time is what happens when you make the highest grossing movie in history, a fact he celebrates, wearing a t-shirt that reads "Time Means Nothing in the Face of Creativity."

"Once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."
James Cameron

Like Cameron, Stanley Kubrick spent more time off movie sets than on. In a career that spanned 46 years he made only 13 movies but spent years developing pictures that never went into production — like Napoleon, an epic look at the life of the French Emperor that he expected to be "the best movie ever made."

Others choose long layoffs between projects for different reasons. Actor Casey Affleck (Ben's younger brother) had three movies released in 2007 but nothing else scheduled until 2010. Why the break?

"To be perfectly honest, I don't really enjoy playing anybody," he says, "except Casey Affleck lying on the couch watching the Red Sox … usually, when I'm working, I'm not really having a good time."

Then there's Daniel Day-Lewis, an actor whose lapses between projects makes Affleck look like a workaholic. The There Will Be Blood star routinely takes years off between films, once disappearing from the big screen for five years.

When asked why he doesn't work more often he said, "I like to cook things very slowly. I learnt early on that I couldn't jump from one kind of work to another. I did it a couple of times and it didn't work."

James Cameron has Stanley Kubrick-like dedication to his movies.

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 18 TO THURS., DEC. 24. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Orson Welles stars Zac Efron as the young film director.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Amelia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-7:05-9:40
Astro Boy (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:35-7
Cairo Time (STC) Fri-Thu 3:40
Capitalism: A Love Story (STC) Fri-Thu 9:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:45
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-6:50-9:20
The Fourth Kind (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
The Invention of Lying (PG) Fri-Thu 7:30-9:50
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:55-9:25
Paranormal Activity (14A) Fri-Thu 10
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4
The Stepfather (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7:20-9:40
Surrogates (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:30-7:25-9:45
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:15
Zombieland (18A) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:50-7:10-9:55

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

2012 (PG) Fri-Wed 2-6:30-10 Thu 2-6:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed 11:50-2:10-4:25-6:35-9 No Passes Thu 11:50-2:10-4:25-6:35
Avatar (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-4:15-8 No Passes Thu 12:30-4:15
Avatar 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:45-3:15-7:10:30 No Passes Thu 11:45-3:15-7
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:10-7:05-10:20 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05
Brothers (STC) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:55 Sat 4:30-7:10-9:55 Sun-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:55
Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:15-4:25-7:30-10:10 No Passes Thu 1:15-4:25-7:30
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:35-5:10-7:35-10:05 Thu 12:10-2:35-5:10-7:35
Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:50-3:50-6:55-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:50-6:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Tue 12:40-2:50-5:05-7:20-9:45 Wed 5:05-7:20-9:45 Thu 12:40-2:50-5:05-7:20
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Tue 12-2:20-4:35-6:50-9:30
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 12:20-2:40-5-7:25-9:40 Thu 12:20-2:40-5-7:25
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Wed 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4-7:15-10:15 Thu 1-4-7:15
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:55 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

2012 (PG) Fri-Tue 7:30
Avatar (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12-4-8 No Passes Thu 2-6
An Education (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:40 Wed 12:45-3:45-6:50-10 Thu 12:45-3:45-6:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-4-7-9:50 Wed 1:15-4-7-10:10 Thu 1:15-4-7
Inside Hana's Suitcase (STC) Fri-Tue 1-4:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:20 Wed 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40 Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:30 Sat 3:15-6:30-9:30 Sun-Wed 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:30 Thu 12:15-3:15-6:20
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Wed 1-4:15-7:10-9:50 No Passes Thu 1-3:45-6:40

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

2012 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12-3:25-7:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12-3:25
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:05-12:50-2:25-3:15-4:45-6:50-7:20-9:15-9:40 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:05-12:50-2:25-3:15-4:45-6:25-7:10
Armored (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 7:40-10
Avatar (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1-4:35-9:30
Avatar 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 12-12:30-3:35-4:15-8-9-11:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun-Wed 12-12:30-3:35-4:15-8-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 1-2-5-6
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:20-3:15-7:10-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-3:15-6:40
Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:50-3:30-7:20-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:50-3:30-7:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:15-3-6:40-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-3-6:20
Invictus (STC) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:35-3:40-6:55-10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:35-3:40-6:35
Ninja Assassin (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 2-4:40-7:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2-4:20-6:55
Old Dogs (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:20-4:05-7:05-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:20-4:05-7:05
Planet 51 (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:05-2:55
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:30-12:55-3:05-3:30-7:7:25-9:25-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Wed 12:30-12:55-3:05-3:30-7:7:25-9:25-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 12:30-12:55-3:05-3:30-4:45-7
The Road (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:15-7:15-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:30-4:20-7:15-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-4:20-6:55
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:25-3:45-7:9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:25-3:45-7
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1-4-7:30-10:10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1-3:50-6:45

EMPIRE STUDIO 10

MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

2012 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:10-4:10-7:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 11:30-2-4:30-7:15-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7:15
Avatar 3D (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12-2-4-6:30-8-10:15-11:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed 12-2:30-4-6:30-7:45-10:15 No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 12-2:30-4-6:30-7:45
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:45-3:50-7:10
Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1-3:45-7:15-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1-3:45-7:15
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:15-4:20-7:20-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:15-3:40-7:20-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-3:40-7:20
Invictus (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:15-3:20-6:40-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-3:20-6:40
Old Dogs (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:30-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon 1:45-4:30-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Tue 1:45-4:30-7:30-9:50
The Princess and the Frog (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:30-4:15-7-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-4:15-7
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:50-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30-3:30-6:50
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:45-4:20-7:05-9:50 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:45-4:20-7:05

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Invictus (STC) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:15-6:45-9:15 Mon-Wed 4-6:45-9:15 Thu 4
Me and Orson Welles (STC) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3:10-7-9:10 Mon-Wed 3:45-7-9:10 Thu 3:45

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

3 Idiots (STC) Wed 2-6:30-8:30 Thu 2-6:30
Astro Boy (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:05
The Box (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:35-6:50-9:35 Sun 12:45-6:50-9:35 Mon 12:45-3:35 Tue-Wed 12:45-3:35-6:50-9:35 Thu 12:45-3:35-6:50
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-4-6:40 Mon 12:50-4 Tue-Thu 12:50-4-6:40
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:40 Mon 12:45-3:40 Tue-Wed 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:40 Thu 12:45-3:40-6:45
The Fourth Kind (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:55-7:10 Mon 1:10-3:55 Tue-Wed 1:10-3:55-7:10 Thu 1:10-3:55-7
Paa (PG) Fri-Sun 9 Tue 9
Paranormal Activity (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:05 Mon 1:15-4:10 Tue-Wed 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:05 Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:45-9:50 Mon 12:55-3:45 Tue-Wed 12:55-3:45-9:50 Thu 12:55-3:45
Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (PG) Fri-Sun 2-6:30-8:30 Mon 2 Tue 2-6:30-8:30
The Stepfather (14A) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:50-6:55-9:55 Mon 1:05-3:50 Tue-Wed 1:05-3:50-6:55-9:55 Thu 1:05-3:50-6:55
Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day (STC) Fri-Sun 7:05-9:45 Tue-Wed 7:05-9:45 Thu 7:05

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

2012 (PG) Fri 11:30-3-6:45-10:15 Sat 3-6:45-10:15 Sun-Thu 11:30-3-6:45-10:15
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:40-2-4:30-7:10-9:40
Armored (14A) Fri-Tue 7:35-10:25
Avatar 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 11:30-12:15-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25-11:10 No Passes Sat 11:30-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25-11:10 No Passes Sun-Thu 11:30-12:15-3:10-4-6:45-7:40-10:25
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-3:15-7:10:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:10
Brothers (STC) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:20-10:05
Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:50-2:20-5-8:10:40
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:20-4:50
Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:05-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:20
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:05-9:40
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 1:05
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:15-4:55-7:20-10
The Road (14A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10 Wed 4:10-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Wed 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10:05

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Dirty Dirty - Snowboard (STC) Sat 5
Five Hole: Tales of Hockey (STC) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 3-7-9 Mon-Wed 7-9 Thu 3
Head Law (STC) Sun
The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri 4:30 Mon 2:45 Wed 4:30
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Sun 12
Moon (14A) Mon 5:10 Wed 2:30
New York, I Love You (14A) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 3-7-9 Mon-Wed 7-9 Thu 3
The Polar Express (G) Sat 1 Tue 1 Thu 1
Star Trek (PG) Thu 7
Star Trek II (STC) Thu 5
The Strange World of David B. Taylor (STC) Sun 5

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for more Movies on your smartphone.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

2012 (PG) Fri-Wed 2:15-6:35-10:20 Thu 2:15-6:35
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed 11:50-2:30-5-7:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 11:50-2:30-5-7:45
Armored (14A) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:25-7:30-10
Avatar 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:30-11:45-3:3:15-6:45-7:10-25-10:35 No Passes Thu 11:30-11:45-3:3:15-6:45-7
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Wed 12:20-3:40-7:20-10:30 Thu 12:20-3:40-7:20
The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-7:25-10:20 Thu 12:30-3:30-7:25
Brothers (STC) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:35-6:50-9:40 Thu 12:40-3:35-6:50
Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:35-3:10-7:05-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:35-3:10-7:05
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:45-5:05-7:35-10:10 Thu 12:05-2:45-5:05
Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:55-3:20-7:10-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:55-3:20-7:10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Tue 7:25-9:55
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Thu 12:10-2:35-5:15-7:50
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:30-5
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 12-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15 Thu 12-2:40-5:10-7:40
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 12:15-3:45-6:55-10:05 Thu 12:15-3:45-6:55
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-7:30-10:25 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:50-7:30

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN
612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Antichrist (R) Fri-Wed 9:25
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:35-7-9:20 Mon-Wed 7-9:20 Thu 12:05-2:35
The Road (14A) Fri 4:45-7:10 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:45-7:10 Mon-Wed 4:45-7:10 Thu 2:15-4:45
A Serious Man (14A) Fri 4:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-4:50 Mon-Wed 4:50 Thu 12:15-4:50

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed 12:30-4:05-6:50-9:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-4:05-6:50
Avatar 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:45-12:40-3:15-4:15-7-8-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:45-12:40-3:15-4:15-7-8
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-3:25-6:30-9:40 Thu 12:10-3:25-6:30
Brothers (STC) Fri-Tue 3:7:45-10:20
Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:05-3:30-7:30-10 No Passes Thu 12:05-3:30-7:30
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-4:05-6:50-9:20
Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:55-3:05-6:40-9:50 No Passes Thu 11:55-3:05-6:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Tue 11:40
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 1:10-4:7:15-9:55 Sat 4-7:15-9:55 Sun-Tue 1:10-4-7:15-9:55 Wed 4-7:15-9:55 Thu 1:10-4-7:15
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 1-4:25-7:10-9:30 Thu 1-4:25-7:10
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Wed 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-3:50-7:20-10:10 Thu 12:50-3:50-7:20
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Wed 11:40-3-7:45-10:20 No Passes Thu 11:40-3-7:45

WHAT SETS OUR NETWORK APART?

IT'S PROVEN.

How do you define reliability? Most Canadians agree it's about proving oneself over time.*

Rogers rolled out Canada's first GSM network in 2001, and we've continued to fine-tune and perfect it ever since. Today, independent researchers routinely test-drive our network for voice and data performance, confirming our reputation as Canada's reliable network.

So it's no wonder over 8 million customers count on us for their wireless needs. Because there's only one proven network in Canada: Rogers.

CANADA'S RELIABLE NETWORK.

Visit rogers.com/reliable for details.

*According to an independent consumer survey conducted in November 2009.

ROGERS™

™Rogers & Mobius Design are trademarks of or used under license from or with permission of Rogers Communications Inc. or an affiliate. Google and the Google logo are trademarks of Google Inc. The HTC logo and HTC Dream™ are trademarks of HTC Corporation used under license or with permission. All other brand names and logos are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2009 Rogers Wireless.

Billboard's top albums
1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Glee Soundtrack, Various Artists; 4. Fearless (Platinum Edition), Taylor Swift; 5. Play On, Carrie Underwood. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Platinum Blonde joins music hall

BAND The '80s pop band Platinum Blonde is being inducted into the Canadian Music and Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame.

Known for such melodic new wave hits as Standing In The Dark, Crying Over You and It Doesn't Really Matter, the band will be recognized at a luncheon March 12, 2010 in Toronto during Canadian Music Week.

Vocalist Mark Holmes, drummer Chris Steffler and guitarist Sergio Galli broke onto the music scene in 1982 with catchy singles, big blond hair and glam-rock style.

Keyboardist Kenny MacLean joined the band in 1985, roughly four years before they would split up.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOP 10
RINGTONES
1 Tik Tok Ke$ha
2 Satellite Heart Anya Marina
3 So Hard Rihanna
4 Bad Romance Lady Gaga
5 Whatcha Say Jason DeRulo
6 Fireflies Owl City
7 Party in the USA Miley Cyrus
8 Telephone Lady Gaga
9 I Can Transform You Chris Brown
10 Empire State of Mind Jay-Z
Text Music to 555
To download the hottest tracks, ringtones and more.
ROGERS

Orianthi and the King of Pop

Guitarist was hired to back Michael Jackson on This Is it comeback

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Rock guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has just released her sophomore full-length Believe.

While the album gleans respect thanks to Panagaris' prodigiousness and a notable history with highlights such as performing alongside fellow fret board gurus Carlos Santana, Eric Clapton and Steve Vai (not to mention backing Prince and Carrie Underwood during her recent Grammy Awards performance), the Australian-born/Greek-bred instrumentalist has an even greater credit to her name.

Panagaris was the guitarist for the late Michael Jackson on his unrealized This Is It string of comeback concerts. So despite the thrill of seeing her own talent gain accolades, the dextrous dame understands why people feel more inclined to discuss her brief tenure as six-string samurai for the King of Pop.

"I was shocked when it happened," she reflects with a hint of melancholy. "I went to try out for the band playing the solo for Beat It. I didn't know what to expect but he was so happy with the way I played, he hired me on the spot. I couldn't believe it."

Orianthi Panagaris was the guitarist for Michael Jackson on his unrealized This Is It comeback.

Over the course of the ensuing three months, Panagaris (who typically utilizes her first name) and the rest of the This Is It band routinely rehearsed with Jackson and his troupe, creating a purportedly dazzling return to form for the disparaged King.

Yet, as we all know, mere weeks before the show was to go on, Jackson passed away. Reflecting, Panagaris reveals that Jackson's essence captured her so deeply, she feels little remorse at not getting to strut her stuff for the string of 50 sold-out gigs.

"We didn't get to do the shows but we got the chance to play music with him for three months," she smiles. "He was so giving to all of us. He wanted us all to have our moment and put everything he had into it. He was happy and enthusiastic about it."

"People say he didn't want to do it but you can tell with (the This Is It film) how much he really did. We're never gonna get to play with him again but we got to see how wonderful he was as person and an artist. We were also the last people to be around him. We'll never forget that. It's life-changing."

"I didn't know what to expect but (Michael Jackson) was so happy with the way I played, he hired me on the spot. I couldn't believe it."
Orianthi Panagaris

Such an astounding experience is also the reason Panagaris forgives minds for inquiring more about her time with Jackson than her new record. She expects it, she laughs, noting that overall, she is merely thankful to have been part of such a historical moment.

"It doesn't bother me at all that people ask about my time with MJ more than Believe. I understand that. (The album) was done before I was hired. I have a great band that knew how working with MJ was a dream come true. I don't think it hindered it at all. I'm grateful to have been a part of (This Is It) and now I'm focusing on this."

Ali Milner mixes genres

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

As a music fan, Ali Milner gets bored pretty easily.

So when she set out to make her recently released sophomore album I Dare You, the 19-year-old singer/songwriter, who divides her time between Vancouver and her native Whistler, B.C., said she made a conscious effort to impart variety on her own listeners.

"When we were writing, I remember thinking, 'Gosh, does this song sound the same as the last song we wrote, or the one before that?'" she said on the phone from Whistler, just after returning home from a pre-Olympic performance in Tokyo, "I want them all to be fresh, different and a new experience for the listener."

Milner's motivation is clear on I Dare You. The album, largely comprised of love songs that feature her on keys and vocals, diverts from the jazz-driven sound she put into gear on her self-titled debut at age 14. This time, reggae, R&B and rock all accompany the record's jazz-based-pop numbers, underscored by Milner's sweet but strong vocals.

"When we were writing, I remember thinking, 'Gosh, does this song sound the same as the last song we wrote, or the one before that?' I want them all to be fresh, different and a new experience for the listener."
Ali Milner

She can't quite pinpoint how her diverse musical influences developed. Drawing inspiration from artists as mixed as Sam Cooke, Puccini and Led Zeppelin, Milner boils it down to innate feeling, "I just get into different moods and want to listen to different stuff," she laughs.

Though her ear may be in many places, Milner's mind appears focused. Lyrically and melodically, she said she's grown into a level of confidence that allowed her to fashion an album in a more personal niche as she's matured.

"I definitely feel I'm more certain who I am," she said, "(In between albums) I played at the Four Seasons in Whistler a couple times a week for two years. With all those hours under my belt, my performing is a lot more confident."

I Dare You is the new album from 19-year-old singer-songwriter Ali Milner.

Milner's performance practice has already paid off. She won glowing praise from Sarah McLachlan after performing at a children's hospital event. And jazz-popper Michael Bublé invited her to sing with him on stage at a post-Juno Awards party.

"It's really interesting gratification to get because I feel like they're along the same vein of music that I am. They're far ahead in their careers and have achieved a life from it," a sentiment Milner said encourages her to think she, too, could make music a life-long vocation.

But first, she's set on improving her songwriting ability by working with new minds she hopes to meet with any success garnered by her new album. "That's what cultivates a life-long career."

LOW ON PRICE.
HIGH ON FEATURES.

BEST HIGHWAY FUEL EFFICIENCY
IN ITS CLASS (EXCLUDES HYBRIDS)♦

HWY: 5.4L/100KM – 52 MPG
CITY: 8.0L/100KM – 35 MPG▼

2009 CHEVROLET COBALT

0% FOR 72 MONTHS†

FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

INCLUDES • Ecotec 2.2L 4-Cylinder Engine • 5-Speed Manual Transmission • Standard CD with MP3 Playback and Audio Input Jack • 60/40 Split Folding Rear Seats

★★★★★
FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◊

2009 CHEVROLET AVEO

0% FOR 60 MONTHS†

FREIGHT & PDI INCLUDED

PLUS $1,000‡ HOLIDAY BONUS

HWY: 5.7L/100KM – 50 MPG
CITY: 7.9L/100KM – 36 MPG▼

INCLUDES • Ecotec 1.6L 4-Cylinder DOHC Engine • 5-Speed Manual Transmission • Standard CD with MP3 Playback and Audio Input Jack • 60/40 Split Folding Rear Seats

ALBERTACHEVROLET.COM

60 DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE**

NEW TOY NEW JOY EVENT

GM Canada
THE BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA
5 YEARS / 160,000 KM
· POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY
· ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
· COURTESY TRANSPORTATION
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. EXCLUDES MEDIUM-DUTY TRUCKS. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.▲

STUDENT BONUS‡‡ GM pays the first 2 monthly payments‡

CHEVROLET

For the latest information, visit us at gm.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE: ‡ $1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) available on all 2009/2010 Chevrolet models excluding Camaro, Express, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. † Financing available on approved GMAC credit only. 0% purchase financing available for 72/60 months on 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt (1SM)/Aveo (1SM). Down payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment / trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 72/60 months, the monthly payment is $138.89/$166.67. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. ‡/† Offers apply as indicated to new or demonstrator models. Dealer trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited offers subject to change without notice. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in Alberta Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only. See your GM dealer for details. ▼Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Fuel Consumption Guide Ratings. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ◊ U.S. Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ‡‡ OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery), wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-40NSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Policy and details and system limitations. Additional information can be found in the OnStar Owner's Guide. ¥ GMCL will pay the first two months' GMAC finance payments for finance terms up to 60 months only, paid up to a maximum monthly finance payment of $400 (tax included). Offer applicable to equal monthly payment finance agreements with GMAC and subject to GMAC credit approval. License, insurance, registration and administration fees not included and may be payable upon signing. Program not available to recipients of any previous GM student/graduate offer. Visit gmstudentbonus.ca for more details. ** Return between 30-60 days with less than 4,000km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only; excludes Demos, Fleet, Lease Vehicles and Medium Duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. Customer must take retail delivery by 01/11/10. See dealer or gm.ca for additional details. ♦ Applies to 2009 Cobalt XFE (1AJ37/69). Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Energuide data and GM vehicle segmentation for the Compact Car - Regular segment.

Amazon.ca's top albums
1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Crazy Love, Michael Bublé; 4 Glee Soundtrack, Various Artists; 5. The Fall, Norah Jones. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Music that made a difference

The ten best albums from the last ten years

SoundCheck

With two weeks left in The Decade with No Name — Seriously. what will the people of the future call the first decade of the 21st century? Did we ever come up with a name for the years between 1900 and 1909? — 'tis time for the compiling of "best of" lists. Here are my picks for the ten best from the last ten years in order of release date.

Agaetis Byrjun, Sigur Ros (Early 2000): OK, so it was actually released in 1999, but it wasn't until Y2K safely passed that people began to embrace its sublime mellowness. Buy one now. Iceland needs your hard currency.

Kid A, Radiohead (Oct. 2, 2001): Under pressure to follow up 1997's OK Computer, Radiohead deconstructed itself in order to assemble an astonishingly smooth record that doesn't sound like it was made by a rock band.

White Blood Cells, The White Stripes (July 3, 2001): No bass player? Brother and sister or ex-husband-and-wife? Didn't matter. She was the mute timekeeper and Jack White was quietly announcing that this was going to be his decade.

This Is It, The Strokes (Sept 25, 2001): Yes, several of the Strokes were trust-fund private school kids, but that certainly didn't stop them from making a street smart record that really kicked off the decade's fascination with indie rock.

Coldplay, above, and The Strokes, right, delivered two of the last decade's best albums.

Songs for the Deaf, Queens of the Stone Age (Aug. 27, 2002): Josh Homme out front, Dave Grohl on drums. In retrospect, the ancestor of Them Crooked Vultures.

A Rush of Blood to the Head, Coldplay (April 1, 2003): Parachutes was a fine record, but it certainly didn't hint towards the superstardom that would come rushing in with the next album.

Elephant, White Stripes (April 1, 2003): Seven Nation Army and the Hardest Button to Button cemented Jack White's rep as the guitar god of the '00s.

American Idiot, Green Day (Sept. 21, 2004): Aging punk rockers mount comeback with a punk rock opera. Didn't see that coming.

Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not/Arctic Monkeys (Feb. 21, 2006): They went from getting guitars for Christmas to the biggest new band in the U.K. in just a couple of years. And Alex Turner has become one of the decade's best lyricists.

In Rainbow/Radiohead (Oct. 10, 2007): Ask people to pay what they think the album is worth? Good luck with that.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Business takes you places. Don't leave productivity behind.

A Turbo Stick keeps you and your team securely connected to the Internet onCanada's best high-speed mobile network[1]. And our flexible Mobile Internet planis designed to work with you. Starting from $35/month for 500MB, this planautomatically adjusts to give you the best rate available. It's another wayBell makes productivity better.

TURBO STICK $0 on a 3-yr. term[2] ($174.95 no term)

Bell business just got better

Available at the following Bell store:

Calgary
1002 17th Ave SW
403 229-1005

Offer ends December 17, 2009. Available with compatible devices within network coverage areas available from Bell (EVDO/HSPA/HSPA+) and its partners' network coverage areas where technology permits. Other monthly fees, e.g., 9-1-1 (Quebec as of Dec. 1st: $0.40, New Brunswick: $0.53, Nova Scotia: $0.43, P.E.I. : $0.50, not available in Newfoundland and Labrador), and a one-time device activation ($35) applies. Paper bill service charge ($2/mo.) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. Subject to acceptable use restrictions in Terms of Service, including consuming excessive network capacity or causing our network to be adversely affected. See bell.ca/acceptableuse for details. (1) Based on: (a) fastest network, according to tests of average upload and download speeds using HSPA devices, in large Canadian urban centres, (b) largest network, based on total square kms of coverage, and (c) most reliable network based on tests for dropped calls and call clarity in large Canadian urban centres using HSPA devices; all on the shared HSPA/HSPA+ network available from Bell, vs. Rogers HSPA/HSPA+ network as of Sept. 2009. Speed may vary due to topography, environmental conditions, device type and other factors. HSPA/HSPA+ not available in all areas. Bell.ca/network. (2) With new activation on a 3-yr. term on a Mobile Internet plan with a min. value of $35/mo.

GREAT BIG TRUCK EVENT

2010 Nissan Titan Crew Cab SE

DO NOT PAY FOR 90 DAYS

BONUS
GPS NAVIGATION SYSTEM
WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY NEW OR USED TRUCK

$36,799

$230 bi-weekly

prices does not include GST, A/C tax of $100, tire tax of $20, or documentation fee of $296, payment is 96 month finance, at 6.97%, APR, O.A.C, cost of borrowing is $11,041, errors and ommisions exempt

OVER 600 USED VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM

2008 Nissan Titan SE
King cab, V8, power windows/locks, A/C,

$30,995
B909835

2009 Infinity FX35
AWD, loaded

$48,995
B911922

2008 Nissan Frontier
4X4, king cab, V6, alloys, Nav, loaded, cloth

$28,995
B911903

2006 Infinity FX35
V6, loaded

$34,995
B909826

2004 Nissan Murano SL
Alloys, A/C, Bose 6 disc CD, heated seats

$18,995
B908795

2008 Nissan Titan Pro 4X
Crew cab, loaded

$31,995
B911911

2007 Nissan Titan LE
Crew cab, V8, loaded

$36,995
B907763

2007 Nissan Xterra
power windows, power locks, A/C

$25,995
B909824

Experience A New Way Of Doing Business.

SUNRIDGE NISSAN

sunridgenissan.com

3131 - 32 Ave NE, Calgary, Alberta

(403) 536-9705

NISSAN

The Beautiful Life back from the dead

Ashton Kutcher's canceled CW drama, The Beautiful Life: TBL, will live again — on YouTube. Citing fan requests, Kutcher put all five episodes on YouTube on Thursday. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

TV set decorators get into the festive spirit

Imagine if your holiday decorations were going to be seen by millions of people. That's the challenge for many TV-show set decorators as all the Christmas-themed episodes roll around.

"Decorations should be what's appropriate for the characters and story," says Hannah Montana set decorator Wendy Fine. "You don't put things outrageous that shouldn't be outrageous. If all they're talking about is the set, the sets were overdone or the actors were really bad."

Like other television show set decorators, she scoured stores and online sites for Christmas trinkets, knickknacks and decorations months before the actual holiday. Most holiday episodes are filmed in the summer and air in late fall.

Mad Men set decorator Amy Wells didn't grow up celebrating Christmas, but "the moment I got out of my parents' house, I got a lot of vintage Christmas decorations," she said. "I had a box full of stuff. Old mercury-style bowls in light frosty pink and light frosty aqua."

Wells put those vintage finds to good use on the AMC show, set in the early 1960s at fictional New York advertising firm Sterling Cooper. Season three's Mad Men finale, which aired Nov. 8, featured everything from a classic Christmas wreath to a fake tree in the office. Each secretary desk at Sterling Cooper had some kind of decoration, including holiday candy bowls, holiday candy, china Santas and candy canes.

Authenticity, for Wells, is paramount.

"We make it look like the art department didn't come in. We make it look like it's real," Wells said. "The decoration was authentic decoration from that day."

"What was available to people back then was much more limited. There were no twinkle lights," Wells said.

For Hannah Montana, Fine was asked to find traditional Christmas decorations such as strung-up cards and a red-ribboned wreath for the Disney show's season three holiday episode.

The set included the California house that teenager Miley Stewart's family moved into from Tennessee.

"The decorations in the house were supposed to be things they may have brought from Tennessee, like traditional Christmas lights," said Fine. "There was nothing very designer about it. It was homey."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miley Cyrus on the set of Hannah Montana

YTV is a trade-mark of the Corus™ Entertainment group of companies.

A TV show is no longer just a TV show — it's music and more

TELEVISION These days, programming for the tube is a multi-platform endeavour, encompassing online, gaming, music, DVDs, toys and tours in a bid to keep budgets in the black and eyeballs glued to the small screen.

From Heroes to Lost, High School Musical to Glee, recent experiments are pointing to radical shifts in the way stories are told and the way viewers consume them, with observers predicting bold changes to the TV business as it emerges from a decade of fragmented audiences and dwindling advertising revenues.

"Over the next 10 years, literally what we consider traditional ways of telling stories are going to completely fall apart," predicts Peter Vamos of the Banff World Television Festival.

"We have a generation of kids who ... all they've ever known is the validation that is derived from self-expression through two-way communication through the Internet

Jeff Gomez

"If it's a good story, it's a good story and if it entertains you, it entertains you and you're not going to have to fit these things within certain types of story arcs — there can be any number of different ways of doing this sort of stuff."

Heroes offers fans more with graphic novels and online content.

"There will be a fairly dramatic shift soon, even for content that's established in Canada," adds Jeff Gomez, head of the New York-based digital production company Starlight Runner Entertainment. "There'll be more and more of this kind of cross-platform implementation ... You're going to see really artful and emotionally engaging implementation."

What they're talking about is a phenomenon known as transmedia, in which a story might start on television, evolve online in a new direction and then shift again to take shape as a novel.

Mediawire CEO Ned Sherman points to Heroes as a prime example of the transmedia phenomenon, noting it's generated hundreds of millions of dollars in additional revenue for NBC Universal through things including online content, magazines, action figures, interactive websites, graphic novels and webisodes.

"Every sign is that network television is on the decline and cable continues to do well," notes Sherman.

"From what I hear out there the whole system is under evaluation right now"

Canadian TV production is poised to see an influx of such interactive initiatives with the merging of the Canadian Television Fund and the Canada New Media Fund into the Canada Media Fund, set to launch in April 2010.

The new fund will require applicants to make their projects available on at least two platforms, one of which must be television. Projects produced in high definition will be favoured.

"That is the way of the future. We have a generation of kids who are getting older now, they're headed toward puberty and all they've ever known is the Internet, and so all they've ever known is the validation that is derived from self-expression through two-way communication through the Internet," says Gomez.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gilmore Girls are back

It's a Gilmore Girls mother-daughter reunion on NBC. Gilmore matriarch Kelly Bishop has booked a multi-episode arc on Mercy. Bishop's TV offspring, Lauren Graham, is also starring on a Peacock drama, Parenthood. EW.COM

Television

Dean and Dan do it all

Dan and Dean Caten are loving this moment in the limelight.

The twin-brother team behind the fashion label Dsquared2 are on TV and the radio, they created concert costumes for Madonna and Britney Spears, and they'll be outfitting the headlining performers at the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Earlier this year, they received a star on Canada's Walk of Fame — the only fashion designers to be honoured alongside the likes of Michael J. Fox and Wayne Gretzky.

They have a collection of branded MAC cosmetics as well as eyewear and fragrance deals. But any time it seems success might go to their heads, they remember their modest Canadian roots and have a good chuckle.

Actually, they do more than chuckle, they crack each other up, communicating in shorthand that takes other people in the room a little while to understand.

"We are twins in every sense of the word," says Dan, who describes himself as the more approachable of the two — although he's also the one who'll crack the whip at work. Dean claims he's "taller and thinner," sucking in his cheeks and striking a model-worthy pose.

Hysterics ensue.

They've been this close since the day they were born in 1964 in Willowdale, a neighbourhood in north Toronto, and have wanted to work in fashion almost as long, Dean says.

Family life was as ordinary as it could be in a household with nine kids, yet he and Dan always had an eye on a bigger picture that his family couldn't see.

Still, they're proud of their Canadian roots: Maple leaves are incorporated into several designs each season.

Music is a key source of inspiration, the Catens say, and they put together the playlist for their runway shows as they're sketching styles. Their famous soundtracks led to XM Radio's Dean and Dan On Air: Style in Stereo and now they host Bravo's new Launch My Line, which gives artistic professionals a chance to break into the fashion biz.

The Catens' personalities largely serve as the glue for the TV show.

"Not only are they supercredible, hot and talented designers, the idea of having identical twin brother designers as fashion hosts is as unique as they are," says Andy Cohen, senior vice-president of original programming and development at Bravo.

"Plus they're fun, fun, fun!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/LUCA BRUNO

Dan, left, and Dan Caten are fashion designers, and now TV hosts.

Opera gives cash to Atlanta school

IT FEELS GOOD TO GIVE A private middle school, Ron Clark Academy, in inner-city Atlanta has received $1.5 million US from Oprah Winfrey.

The school in one of the city's poorest neighbourhoods is hoping to expand its campus by building a cafeteria, gymnasium and theatre.

The innovative school has struggled to raise money this year for its $2.8 million operating budget. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sherlock Holmes memorabilia stockpiled in Minnesota

"People think the Holmes collection ought to be in London. So it's 'Why Minnesota?'"
Curator Tim Johnson

COLLECTION Deep in an underground cavern at the University of Minnesota lies the world's largest collection of Holmes memorabilia — a cache sure to expand with material from the new Sherlock Holmes movie starring Robert Downey Jr..

To many, it's a mystery how this trove of tens of thousands of books, toys, games, posters and recordings — from copies of the Holmes stories owned by the last empress of Russia to an original manuscript page of The Hound of the Baskervilles — ended up at a Midwestern university, half a world away from the foggy London streets of Holmes.

The answer is elementary, according to Tim Johnson, curator of special collections and rare books at the University of Minnesota Libraries: A "happy series of accidents" involving a retired university librarian, a Nobel Prize laureate and a Holmes fan who took a "vacuum cleaner" approach to collecting.

"People think the Holmes collection ought to be in London. So it's 'Why Minnesota?' And it's really just this series of happy events that occurred over time," Johnson says.

Sherlock Holmes, already out in Britain, is being released Christmas Day in the U.S. Directed by Guy Ritchie, the film stars Downey as a man-of-action Holmes unravelling a nefarious plot by Lord Blackwood in Victorian England.

The Holmes collection in Minnesota has between 15,000 and 16,000 volumes, and other pieces bring the archive to 60,000 or more, Johnson said. They are kept in a cavern, fitted out for storage, about 85 feet below ground at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, where temperatures and humidity are controlled.

On metal shelves sit memorabilia including magnifying glasses, an ice cream carton with a cartoon cow wearing Holmes' iconic deerstalker cap, a Muppet character from Sesame Street.

Other major Holmes or Doyle archives are at Harvard University, the Toronto Public Library and Portsmouth, England. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/18/09	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Access H.	*Playing for Keeps* (2009, Docudrama) Jennifer Finnigan.				Michael Bublé		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	The Office	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Friends
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Supernanny (N)		20/20 (HDTV)		20/20
	245	306 6 CBRT	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*Home Alone* ★★★ (1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin.				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NUMB3RS "First Law"		Dollhouse Echo is sent into her worst nightmare. (N)				News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		The Jay Leno Show (N)		Supernanny (N)		Man Tracker		Your City
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)		Frosty	Frosty Returns	(10:01) Medium		NUMB3RS
	-	374 14 KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Being Served	Christmas-Luth
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	Law & Order "Zero"		Dateline NBC (N)		Jay Leno Show
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Dollhouse Echo is sent into her worst nightmare. (N)				News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Snowdon and Margaret		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Snowdon
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Vancouver Canucks. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre	NFL Presents
	408	418 27 net	Skiing: Giant Slalom		Best Damn Sports Show		Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected (N)		Ultimate Fight
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	Sabrina-Witch	*Unaccompanied Minors* ★★ (2006, Comedy)				Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird
	557	541 39 FAM	Zeke & Luther	Jonas	Sonny Chance	*The Ultimate Christmas Present* (2000)			(10:05) *A Dog of Flanders* ★★ (1999)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Chef Abroad	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny vs.	Kenny-Spenny	Law Order
	520	505 35 DISC	Man vs. Wild		Biblical Mysteries Explained		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild		Worst Driver
	628	584 43 SPIKE	UFC: Best of 2009 (HDTV)						Video Justice: Crime on Tape!		Video Justice
	522	516 45 HIST	Go Deep		Battles BC		Fatal Passage (N)		Fatal Passage		Underworld
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *All I Want for Christmas*		*All I Want for Christmas* ★★ (1991, Drama), Thora Birch				*King Kong* ★★ (1976, Fantasy)		
	581	566 102 MTV	After Show	Cribs	Teen Mom		1 girl 5 gays	Cribs	After Show	Over the Bolts	Teen Mom

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/19/09	243	317 3 CFCN	*Chasing Christmas* (2005, Drama) Tom Arnold. (DVS)				Muppets Christmas: Letters		Christmas at the White House		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Trendy Zone	Chinese Rest.	Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		*The Santa Clause 2* ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen.				Castle
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					HNIC: After Hours	
	244	338 7 CICT	Santa Claus Parade		Project Runway Canada		*Blind Trust* (2007, Suspense) Jessica Capshaw.				News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Most Amazing	Role	Glenn Martin	Out There	*White Noise* ★ (2005, Suspense) Michael Keaton. (DVS)				The City Show
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		*Elf* ★★★ (2003, Comedy) Will Ferrell, James Caan.				48 Hours Myst.
	-	374 14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December	Time Goes By	(9:05) *An Affair to Remember* ★★★ (1957, Romance) Cary Grant.				
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Take to Heart	CSI: NY "Consequences"		Muppets Christmas: Letters		WWE Tribute to the Troops (N)		Law/Ord SVU
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Half-Wit"		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	Inside the Saudi Kingdom		National	News: At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Saudi Kingdom
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Basketball	SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto.			30 for 30 (HDTV)	
	408	418 27 net	(6) NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at New Orleans Saints. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Poker
family	552	543 20 YTV	Charlie Brown	Charlie Brown	Flintstones		He-Man, She-Ra Christmas		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*On the 2nd Day of Christmas* ★★ (1997)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Gordon Ramsay: Cook		Top Chef: Las Vegas		The F Word		Dear Food Network		Ramsay: Cook
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	*Bourne Identity*	About a Girl	The Guard		*Christmas Town* (2008, Romance-Comedy), Garry Chalk				*Superbad*
	520	505 35 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Time Warp		Criss Angel Mindfreak		Canada's Worst Driver		Destroyed
	628	584 43 SPIKE	Dangerous Police Chases		When Good Pets Go Bad		When Good Pets Go Bad 2		Scariest Police Chases 2		Police Chases
	522	516 45 HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ultimate Engineering		Cities of the Underworld		*Chicago* ★★★ (2002, Musical)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Unforgiven* ★★★★ (1992, Western)				*Unforgiven* ★★★★ (1992, Western) Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman.				
	581	566 102 MTV	Peak Season	After	After Show	Cribs	Cribs	1 girl 5 gays	Peak Season	After	MTV Live

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/20/09	243	317 3 CFCN	*Shrek the Third* ★★ (2007, Comedy), Eddie Murphy				*The Bourne Supremacy* ★★★ (2004, Suspense)				CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Without a Trace		Aaram (N)	Chardi Kalaa	Bollywood Boulevard (DVS)		Stars of Torino	Redux Japan	Words
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	Phineas-Ferb	Funniest Home Videos		*The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause* (2006, Comedy)				Housewives
	245	306 6 CBRT	Pooh	The Grinch	*National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989, Comedy)				CBC News: The National		Confidential
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9 Picture	'Til Death	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Survivor: Samoa (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)				Survivor
	246	- 8 CKAL	Survivorman		My RONA Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		Conviction Kitchen		Most Amazing
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		Survivor: Samoa (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)				Survivor
	-	374 14 KSPS	Lark Rise to Candleford (HDTV)			Yellowstone	Masterpiece Classic "Cranford" (DVS)				MI-5
	-	370 16 KHQ	(6:15) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Carolina Panthers.					Mark Few	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Fetal Position"		To Be Announced		The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	American Dad	News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		*March of the Penguins* ★★★ (2005, Documentary)				CBC News: The National		*March-Penguin*
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State of Union
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:15) NFL Football Minnesota Vikings at Carolina Panthers.					SportsCentre		Motoring 2010	Auto Racing
	408	418 27 net	Skiing	Boxing Jelena Mrdjenovich vs. Ann Saccurato.				UEFA Champ.	Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		Poker
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Christmas With the Kranks* ★★ (2004, Comedy)				SpongeBob	Family Biz	Smallville "Requiem"		Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*One Magic Christmas* (1985, Fantasy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		In Search of Perfection		Unwrapped		Unwrapped		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	*How Grinch*	Howie Do It	Cra$h & Burn		*Christmas Caper* (2007, Comedy-Drama)				*Smokin' Aces*
	520	505 35 DISC	Arctic Roughnecks (N)		MythBusters		Anthony Bourdain		Alaska: Most Extreme		Roughnecks
	628	584 43 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		*Lethal Weapon 2* ★★★ (1989, Action) Mel Gibson, Joe Pesci.				
	522	516 45 HIST	Ice Road Truckers		Vimy Under	Running Guns			*Lord of War* ★★ (2005, Drama)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *A Christmas Carol*		*Prancer* ★★ (1989, Fantasy) Sam Elliott, Rebecca Harrell.				*A Christmas Carol* ★★ (1984, Fantasy)		
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays	Over the Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Real World-Rd

Seinfeld to replace O'Brien?

With Conan O'Brien's disappointing transition into the Tonight Show chair, popeater.com is reporting that NBC has its eyes on replacing him with none other than comedian, Jerry Seinfeld. **POPEATER.COM**

Going Out

Mix of Six

Tony n' Tina's Wedding

When: Friday
Where: The Wedding Pavilion

Catch the hilarious and popular theatre production. $64-95 to $69.95. For tickets, call 1-403-777-0000 or visit tonylovestina.com.

Holiday Tree Show party and fundraiser

When: Friday
Where: New Gallery

Music by Shon Anderson and Chris Dadge, installation by Larry McDowell.

Once Upon a Christmas

When: Until Dec. 21
Where: Heritage Park

A Children's maze, gingerbread man decorating, Christmas carolers and much more fun for the family.

L'Expedition Bedeaux by Nadine

MacKenzie book launch

When: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Big Four Building

With a Christmas concert livreslacostebooks.com.

Jingle Bell rock 2009

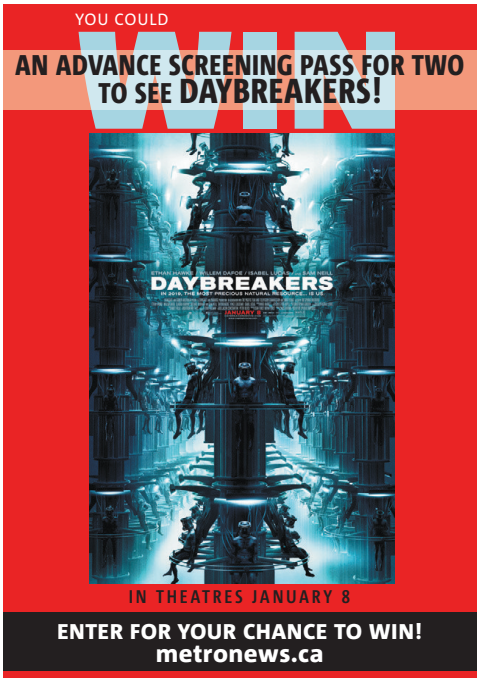
When: Saturday
Where: Big Four Building

Jingle Bell rock 2009 with AFI, cage the Elephant and Melissa Auf Der Maur. $39.50 plus s/c unionevents.com.

How David Thompson used the sky to create maps with Jennifer Howse

When: Friday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Where: Rothney Astrophysical Observatory

A tribute to one of the greatest geographers in history during winter solstice. Event will be cancelled with bad weather, call 403-220-7977.



Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

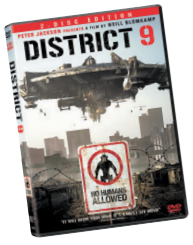
1 Jason Reitman

DIRECTOR This Canadian-born filmmaker is the new It Boy of Hollywood. He burst upon the scene with Thank You for Not Smoking and went on to score a hit with Juno. Now with Up In The Air, he seems poised to soar during awards season. The George Clooney-starring film picked up six Golden Globe nominations this week and is a clear favourite to work the same magic at the Oscars.

2 Kid sings Jason Mraz

VIDEO A five-year-old proves that not knowing the lyrics to a song and being out of tune are no impediments to stardom. Armed with a ukulele, the Japanese boy sings the ubiquitous I'm Yours on this viral video, which has garnered close to five million hits. Take that, cute kittens.

3 District 9



DVD James Cameron, take note: It only takes $30 million to make arguably one of the best sci-fi films ever. Set in his native South Africa, director Neill Blomkamp targets everything from xenophobia to class conflict in this start-to-finish entertainer. And it's not all politics — there are plenty of things blowing up and oozing out to keep Michael Bay-fed audiences happy as well.

4 Decade/year-end lists

NEWS Nickelback best of band of the decade (Billboard)? Animal Collective's My Girls best song of the year (Pitchfork)? When it comes to media, 'tis the season of those authoritative, we-know-it-all picks. And, thanks to the end of the first 10 years of the millennium, we get two lists of each instead of one.

5 Cleaving: Julie Powell

BOOK Subtitled A Story of Marriage, Meat and Obsession, this memoir serves up tales from the slaughterhouse and garnishes them with the dirty entrails of the writer's own marriage gone bad. It's a particularly bloody affair — replete with both adultery and offal. A far cry from the sad-but-content Powell we were getting used to from Julie & Julia.

6 Avatar

FILM Actually, Did You Hear About The Morgans? was our first choice ... just kidding. No movie opening this week can stand up to the gazillion-dollar behemoth that is Avatar. Ontario-born James Cameron dishes out the ultimate Hollywood spectacle in as many cinematic forms as you can imagine — 2-D, 3-D and IMAX. So, the big box-office question is: Will it sink Titanic?

7 Nine: OST

ALBUM Chicago director Rob Marshall revives the 1982 award-winning musical, which was based on Frederico Fellini's arthouse hit 81/2. Everyone from Black Eyed Peas' Fergie to Nicole Kidman to Penelope Cruz flex their vocal chords for this big screen adaptation of the story of an Italian filmmaker and the women in his life.

Even 'Real Housewives' are not recession-proof

TELEVISION Peculiar things have been happening this season on The Real Housewives of Orange County.

Gretchen Rossi had a garage sale, Jeana Keough went shopping with her daughter at H&M and Tamra Barney is now doing her own housework.

What?

This is a dramatic turn from season three, when Barney's husband gave her a diamond Rolex for her 40th birthday, Vicky Gunvalson debated over buying a yacht (she decided against it) and Rossi's fiance gave her a Harley.

"All of them have been very much affected by the economic situation," explains the show's executive producer, Douglas Ross.

This means the downsizing we're seeing on camera is not just for show. A number of the cast members were involved in real estate that's been on a downslide the past two years. And this season, we'll see Lynne Curtin's family get evicted from their Laguna Beach home.

"We try to treat it as gently but as honestly as we can," Ross says. "We happened to have been there with our cameras ... as part of our normal schedule when they were served the eviction notice. It's one of those great reality TV moments that happened to be caught because we were in the right place at the right time."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

The cast of The Real Housewives of Orange (left to right) County Vicki Gunvalson, Tamara Barney, Lauri Waring and Jeana Keough.

Gosselins still to be married in 2010
Jon and Kate Gosselin will still be husband and wife in 2010, as the couple are waiting to finalize their divorce, TVGuide.com has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Watershed 2009 moments

Falcon Heene, Jackson death, Rihanna assault among year's top news

Little Falcon Heene of "Balloon Boy" fame surely had no idea he was encapsulating an entire year of popular culture when he told his parents on national TV: "You guys said that we did this for the show."

Seeking fame is nothing new for Americans — after all, it was back in 1968 that Andy Warhol first postulated that everyone would get 15 minutes.

What distinguished Heene's parents, or famous party crashers Tareq and Michaele Salahi, was how they were seeking it: They wanted a reality show. (Fifteen minutes plus commercials, give or take.)

Reality TV has been around for a decade, but this year the genre seemed to seep into our popular culture in uncomfortable ways. But we're getting ahead of ourselves. Without further ado, our journey through some of the top pop culture moments of 2009:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Young Falcon Heene (a.k.a. the Balloon Boy) was one of the top newsmakers of 2009.

JANUARY: Yes, a new president is inaugurated in Washington, ensuring at least four years of hipper guests in the White House and cultural ramifications too profound to contemplate.

But seven days later in California, one of the year's truly peculiar stories is born, literally: Nadya Suleman, bearing a disconcerting resemblance to Angelina Jolie, gives birth to octuplets, which expand the single mom's brood to 14 and earn her the moniker Octomom

FEBRUARY: Star Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps is caught in a tabloid photo smoking from a marijuana pipe. Sponsor Kellogg Co. drops him, but he largely survives — and in the summer, following a three-month competition ban, he's the new face of the Subway sandwich chain. Tiger Woods should be so lucky.

MARCH: Surprise! Bristol Palin confirms she's done with Levi Johnston, and experts, who note that most teen pregnancies end in broken relationships, hope it can be a teachable moment.

Pop singer Rihanna is shockingly beaten by her boyfriend, singer Chris Brown, and initially returns to him. Later, Rihanna leaves Brown and becomes a voice against domestic violence.

APRIL: Susan Boyle, a plain-looking woman of 48 from Scotland who stuns the world with her rendition of I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent. She's an instant icon for anyone who has ever, well, dreamed a dream.

MAY: Adam Lambert takes American Idol by storm The glam rock singer with the banshee wail, guyliner and black nail polish comes out as gay after the show is over, surprising none.

JUNE: Michael Jackson's stunning, premature death at 50 becomes one of those "Where were you when?" moments.

JULY: There is a rare and fascinating sighting at Jackson's star-studded memorial service in Los Angeles: 11-year-old Paris Michael Jackson, previously only seen in paparazzi shots, her face covered by a veil. "Ever since I was born, Daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine," she says into the microphone. A child who had seemed, with her siblings, a mere oddity is revealed to be a lovely, self-possessed young girl.

AUGUST: Chilling news for reality television: Ryan Jenkins, known as a sweet-talking contestant on VH1's Megan Wants a Millionaire, hangs himself days after his ex-model wife's body is discovered

OCTOBER: This is really the month of Richard Heene's brazen and misguided attempt to use his six-year-old son as a means to a reality show gig. The nation is unified and transfixed as it watches the silver balloon, perhaps carrying Falcon, floats across Colorado. Then it's disgusted.

NOVEMBER: Tiger Woods drives into a fire hydrant and a tree.

DECEMBER: And the fallout seems to know no bounds, as tabloids come out with new reports daily of women claiming to have had sex with the golfer, including at least one former reality cast member.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Author Naomi Klein is shown in a 2007 handout photo. Erika Ritter favoured No Logo by Naomi Klein as Canadian authors picked their favourite book of the decade.

Authors choose faves of '00 decade

BOOKS It was the decade of Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code, J.K. Rowling's walloping wizard series Harry Potter, and Stephenie Meyer's smash vampire saga Twilight.

Other bestsellers included the shipwreck story Life of Pi by Montreal's Yann Martel, which won the Man Booker Prize; Alice Sebold's haunting teenage tale The Lovely Bones; and the post-apocalyptic, Pulitzer Prize-winning The Road by Cormac McCarthy.

The Canadian Press surveyed homegrown authors on which books made an impression on them in the first decade of the 21st century.

Writer-broadcaster Erika Ritter named 2000's hit corporation critique No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies by Toronto-based journalist and activist Naomi Klein.

"It seems to me that a lot of important seeds were planted by No Logo, not just in Canada but abroad," said Toronto-based Ritter, a recent finalist for the Writers' Trust non-fiction prize for The Dog by the Cradle The Serpent Beneath: Some Paradoxes of Human-Animal Relationships.

"The fact that a relatively young (30 at the time of the book's publication) Canadian woman took such square aim on issues of capitalism, globalization, the flight of jobs, brand-name tyranny and much more in a way that put those issues on the agenda of the 21st century, right at the dawn of that century, is, to me, convincing evidence of how influential this book was and continues to be."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Offer subject to change without notice. *LG Eve available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan. Other devices featured available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan having min. combined monthly service fee of $45.
© 2009 Rogers Wireless.

Diddy wants Barack as daddy

P. Diddy wants to be adopted by U.S. President Barack Obama. P. Diddy — real name Sean Combs — said, "I ain't going to lie — if God said I could pick one person to be my father, I'd want to be Sean Combs Obama." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Arcade Fire guitarists Richard Parry, left, Will Bulter, centre, and singer Win Butler, right.

Arcade Fire burns bright

Funeral featured in album-of-decade lists

As far as introductions go, it's tough to top the incandescent initiation received by Arcade Fire.

It was Sept. 12, 2004, when the influential, stubbornly snobby music webzine Pitchfork published a gushing review of Funeral, the 10-song debut record from the Montreal band.

"It's taken perhaps too long for us to reach this point where an album is at last capable of completely and successfully restoring the tainted phrase 'emotional' to its true origin," read the review.

Just like that, word spread like, um, wildfire. The budding blogosphere was quick to hoist the indie-rockers onto its collective shoulders, and soon the band was rising to lofty heights.

But unlike many of the other similarly feted groups of the past 10 years, Arcade Fire wasn't discarded as quickly. In a decade where music was disposable, Funeral did the near-impossible: it refused to die.

> **"They really just changed the face of pop music."**
> Tim Baker, Hey Rosetta

Over the past few weeks, Funeral has been featured in the top 10 of end-of-decade album lists compiled by Rolling Stone, NME, Entertainment Weekly, the Guardian, Pitchfork, the Irish Times, the Independent and the Onion. Strains of the album's influence can be found in everything from past blogger favourites such as Clap Your Hands Say Yeah to the orchestral-influenced arena-rock amplitude of Coldplay.

And Montreal, which deservedly drew as much attention as any rock town since Seattle in the wake of Funeral, continues to rapidly output noteworthy bands.

Looking back on the past 10 years, it's clear that only a select list of artists — Canadian or otherwise — can compete with what Arcade Fire accomplished.

"Record of the decade? I'd have to go with that," Hey Rosetta frontman Tim Baker said of Funeral during a recent a telephone interview.

"They really just changed the face of pop music."

The manner in which they did it, too, remains something of a wonder.

After years of shifting lineups and juggling band members, Arcade Fire began making noise around Montreal in 2003 after self-releasing an EP. Initially, it was their raucous, almost confrontational live show that inspired word-of-mouth buzz.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

America's Next Top Model contestants to get some high-fashion advice
America's Next Top Model is in vogue. The model competition series has named André Leon Talley, Vogue magazine's editor-at-large, as its new fourth judge, TVGuide.com has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Frances Bean slaps Love with restraining order

NO SNARK, JUST SAD Courtney Love's custody debacle seems to only be getting worse, as a Los Angeles judge has now issued a restraining order keeping her from seeing her daughter, Frances Bean Cobain, according to Page Six.

The order was reportedly acquired after Love took to her Facebook account to savage her daughter with a series of expletive-laden rants after losing custody of the 17-year-old.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hermione tops decade's highest-paid actress list

BOX OFFICE MAGICIAN Emma Watson is the highest paid actress of the past decade, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Harry Potter actress — who plays Hermione Granger in the wizard film series, which started in 2001 — has been awarded the title by the Guinness Book of World Records.

The 19-year-old star's starring role in the six films, as well as her voice part in animated movie The Tale Of Despereaux, helped take $5.4 billion US worldwide, putting the takings ahead of some of Hollywood's big players including Julia Roberts, Halle Berry and Cameron Diaz.

She also boasts the highest average box office receipts per movie, with each of her films making an average of $897,100,000.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Baxter to pen memoirs

COMING OUT TO A BOOKSTORE NEAR YOU Having come out in the pages of People earlier this month as a real-life lesbian mother, Meredith Baxter — who played the popular TV mom Elyse Keaton on the '80s sitcom Family Ties — will now put her entire story to paper, people.com reports.

This week, the Broadway Books imprint of Crown Publishing Group announced it had acquired a yet-to-be-written, yet-to-titled memoir by Baxter, who "will present a fully realized portrait of her life as an actress, mother of five children and grandmother, and will candidly discuss her fight with breast cancer, her 19 years of sobriety, entrepreneurship and her decision to come out," says the publisher, reports The New York Times.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tiger romance rumours a "lie," says Simpson

BUT PLEASE KEEP PUBLISHING STORIES ABOUT ME ANYWAY Jessica Simpson was quick to set the record straight about rumors that she once flirted with Tiger Woods, taking to her Twitter account to refute a Star magazine cover story.

"Can't believe that I'm on the cover of star magazine with Tiger Woods, what a joke," Simpson posted on her account. "The Shocking Inside Story' is (insert drumroll) a lie!"

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Josh Groban is in the holiday spirit, Tyra Banks doesn't mean to be so difficult, and Paris Hilton is staying in.

• @joshgroban I always think its cute when music press gets downright flabbergasted that christmas music is topping the charts in december.

• @tyrabanks i'm crazy. talking 'bout my tummy not feeling good from creamy ice cream then complaining when they don't give u enuf!

• @ParisHilton Just ordered Italian food to be delivered. Yum! So hungry!

METRO WORLD NEWS

Shia's sweet un-Hollywood date

ECO-LOVE Shia LeBeouf has been showing British girlfriend Carey Mulligan the sights of his hometown — by bus. The Transformers star was spotted making out with his Wall Street 2 co-star at a busstop near his Sherman Oaks, Calif., home before taking her out for lunch, shopping and a movie at a nearby mall, according to People magazine.

"They are a very sweet couple," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Beckham's karaoke nightmares

JUST FAKE AN INJURY, BECKS David Beckham says it isn't easy sitting down to dinner with Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, usmagazine.com reports.

"We were at dinner once with Tom and Katie ... and we sat there and everyone was like, 'OK, let's play a music game, let's start a singing game!'" Beckham, 34, recalled on George Lopez's TBS late night show, Lopez Tonight, on Wednesday

Singing in public, he said, "Is my worst nightmare!" Beckham said he noticed one of his friends was dining at another table nearby.

"So I was texting my friend, 'Oh, please, invite me to your table!'" said Beckham. "I kind of get uncomfortable with that."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hugh Grant doesn't think he's 'special'

IF ONLY MORE ACTORS HAD HALF AS MUCH SELF-AWARENESS Hugh Grant doesn't think he's all that special. "I'm very picky but also very limited as an actor," Grant tells USA Today. "I've always said that if you give me an Ibsen script, I can get away with it. But there are a lot of people who can do it better."

METRO WORLD NEWS

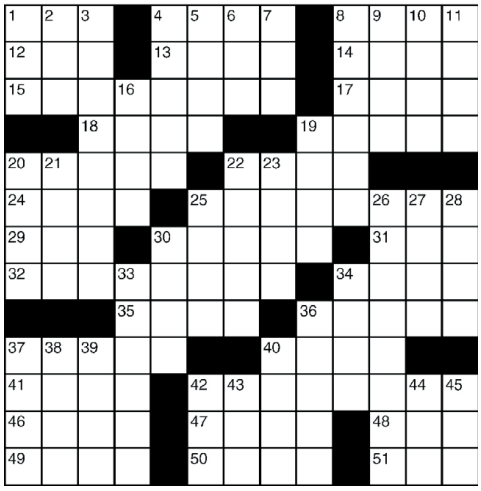
Offer subject to change without notice. © 2009 Rogers Wireless.

BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today Sunny 0 C / -8 C
Saturday Snow -3 C / -7 C
Sunday Sunny -6 C / -12 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

					1		7	
6	1				5	2		
	9		2			4		
	2			4	3		5	
8								6
	7		6	5			2	
		7			9		8	
		2	1				9	3
	4		8					

ACROSS

1 Tummy muscles
4 Talon
8 European capital
12 Rotation duration
13 Swearword
14 Satanic
15 Roget's list?
17 Edges
18 Hair salon supply
19 High nest
20 Ranch statistic
22 Isinglass
24 Lummox
25 Do the tourist thing
29 Felon's flight
30 Hiawatha's transport
31 Singer Sumac
32 Willing participant?
34 Heal, as a fracture
35 Addict
36 Theater array
37 Leonine comments
40 Dance lesson
41 Tel —
42 It makes a long story short
46 Put together
47 Inheritor
48 Wapiti
49 Coaster
50 Catch sight of
51 Crafty

DOWN

1 Billboards
2 Chesapeake or Hudson
3 Group of symptoms
4 Ice-cream parlor stack
5 Deposits
6 $ dispenser
7 "How come?"
8 Prepare leftovers
9 Finished
10 "La Boheme" role
11 Differently
16 — and terminer
19 Rue the run
20 Competent
21 Wheedle
22 Not that important
23 "Young Frankenstein" role
25 Fill till full
26 Spots between neurons
27 Send forth
28 Chows down on
30 Talk a blue streak?
33 Not straight
34 Retain
36 Tale
37 St. Louis team
38 Elliptical
39 Staffer
40 Wield scissors
42 That girl
43 "Absolutely"
44 Under the weather
45 Firmament

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

3	5	9	6	4	7	8	2	1
2	1	7	8	3	5	4	9	6
6	8	4	9	1	2	7	3	5
1	4	3	5	7	9	6	8	2
7	9	8	2	6	3	5	1	4
5	6	2	4	8	1	3	7	9
4	3	1	7	2	6	9	5	8
8	7	5	1	9	4	2	6	3
9	2	6	3	5	8	1	4	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken, Thyme and Mushroom Soup

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
7 oz (200 g) skinless chicken breast fillets, diced
1 red onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped
2 celery sticks, chopped
1/2 lb (250 g) mushrooms, chopped
1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh thyme
1 tbsp (15 mL) dry sherry
1 tbsp (15 mL) Worcestershire sauce
3 cups (750 mL) chicken stock
4 tbsp (60 mL) sour cream

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large pot and fry chicken 5 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pot and set aside. Add onion, garlic and celery to pot and cook 5 minutes.
2. Add chopped mushrooms, thyme, sherry and Worcestershire sauce. Season lightly and cook vegetables 2-3 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Tip mixture into food processor and add half of stock. Process until smooth, then return to pot and add remaining stock. Return chicken to pot and heat until boiling. Simmer 3 minutes. Stir in 2 tbsp (25 mL) sour cream and return to boil.
4. Ladle into bowls and swirl small spoonful of remaining sour cream on to each.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Duty calls today and although you might not want to knuckle down you know if you don't you will be up against the clock the whole weekend.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The Sun moves into one of the best areas of your chart on the 21st and it won't be long before you've forgotten all about your worries

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may not be in the most sociable of moods today but that's okay because the more time you spend thinking and planning the better.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
For some reason you cannot be bothered to make much of an effort at the moment but everything that needs to be done will be done for you by others

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't waste time arguing with others about trivial matters. There are far more important issues you should be focusing on now

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Heal a rift with a partner or loved one today. Say sorry. Put the relationship before your ego.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Keep your opinions to yourself, especially on the home front where things could get tense if you speak your mind.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may not be able to speak freely now but come the 21st you will more than make up for your current reticence.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You know that someone needs help and you are more than willing to give it but what can you do when they keep pushing you away?

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
If you get the chance to do a good deed for someone do it but don't make a big deal about it.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
According to the planets someone is as attracted to you as you are to them but they are finding it difficult to make the first move. So take the first step.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You may be having problems with a relationship but the effects are not yet so bad that you cannot patch things up and get back to how it was before.

This day in history

1787 – New Jersey becomes the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
1932 – The Chicago Bears defeat the Portsmouth Spartans 9-0 in the first ever NFL Championship Game. Because of a blizzard, the game was moved from Wrigley Field to the Chicago Stadium, the field measuring 80 yards (73 m) long.
1956 – Japan joins the United Nations.
1996 – The Oakland, California school board passes a resolution officially declaring "Ebonics" a language or dialect.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE MOVIE.
SCENE MEMBERS SEE IT FOR FREE!

SCENE, Canada's movie rewards program, has **2 MILLION, movie loving members!**
To celebrate we're bringing a blockbuster film back to
Cineplex Entertainment theatres for a one night only, **FREE movie event!**

VOTE for your favourite movie from 2009. You could be seeing it **FREE!**

TO VOTE FOR	TEXT TO 72363 (SCENE)
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen	**MOVIE A**
Star Trek	**MOVIE B**
Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince	**MOVIE C**
The Hangover	**MOVIE D**
X-Men Origin: Wolverine	**MOVIE E**
Angels & Demons	**MOVIE F**
District 9	**MOVIE G**

SCENE™

MOVIE LOVERS GET IT™

GET IT AT SCENE.CA™

VOTE NOW AT SCENE.CA OR TEXT YOUR VOTE TO 72363 (SCENE) ±

CINEPLEX® Scotiabank®

±Online voting begins at 5:00pm EST on November 20, 2009. Text voting begins at 9:00am EST on November 30, 2009. Poll closes December 30, 2009 5:00pm EST. This vote is only open to SCENE members. SCENE members can vote to a maximum of 10 times online and 10 times via SMS. Standard text messaging rates apply to all text message entries sent. For full details on this promotion visit scene.ca.

™Trademarks of SCENE IP LP, used under license. ©Cineplex Entertainment LP used under license. ®Trademarks of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

GIVENCHY
justintimberlake.com
RWD
PLAY
FFWD
GIVENCHY
RWD
PLAY
FFWD
THE NEW MEN'S FRAGRANCE
www.givenchy.com
the Bay